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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

JANUARY 1, 1985

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

STANDING AT THE PORTAL

Standing at the portal Of the op'ning year,
Words of comfort meet us, Hushing ev'ry fear;
Spoken thro' the silence By our Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful, Making us rejoice.

"I, the Lord, am with thee, Be thou not afraid;
I will help and strengthen thee Be thou not dismayed.
Yea, I will uphold thee With my own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen In my sight to stand."

For the year before us, O what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy Living streams shall rise;
For the sad and sinful Shall His grace abound;
For the faint and feeble Perfect strength be found.

He will never fail us, He will not forsake;
His eternal covenant, He will never break,
Resting on His promise What have we to fear?
God is all sufficient For the coming year.

- Frances Havergal

MEMORIES AND THE FUTURE

At the close of one year and the beginning of another, we have a good opportunity to pause and both look back and ahead. Our memories of the past year may be painful or pleasant or most likely a mixture of both.

Our memories of the past year can influence the new year before. As we think back to our activities for the past year, we may decide to continue in the same way, to do less or to do even better. As we perceive what we have done in the past, we also decide what we are going to do in the future.

When we look back what do we see? As individuals, congregations or a Church, what will we remember about this year? Will we have pleasant memories of lives, deeds and thoughts that were pleasing to our Lord? Or will our glance backward be with regret and sadness? If we have striven to be found faithful and loving in our Father's work then may we gladly look back and add these memories to the story of our lives. But if we recall rancor, selfishness, a lack of commitment or a falling away, then we may want to disown such memories.

Our minds are like computers. They can only work with the material that is fed into them. If our minds are fed only on hatred, variance and worldliness, then our memories are only going to contain remembrances of things unpleasant and displeasing to God. If we have fed our minds with the things that make peace, increase love and extend the Gospel, then we can have memories that will be pleasant for us and pleasing to God.

What we have done determines what our memories will be. As Christians we need to look back often to see how our lives have compared to the Word of God. The Bible is the perfect mirror of

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JANUARY 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Lithographing Co., Rt. 4, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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God's Will. By examining our lives we can tell whether we are doing according to His Word or according to our own desires. This look backward is not a sentimental "Good Old Days" reminiscence but a serious deliberate look at what we have done compared to what we should have done. This look backward is not limited to New Year's or to Lovefeast occasions but is needed frequently.

When a backward look reveals an area of trouble or a problem with others it should be taken care of. Either through confession to God or application of the law of pardon with our Brethren we should clear the slate. After the problem, whether a personal problem between us and God or a problem between us and another, has been solved and forgiveness has been expressed, it should be forgotten and never again mentioned to disrupt our own relationship with God or our relationship with others.

As we look forward to the new year, we will probably face about the same situations, temptations and opportunities as we did in the past year. So are we better equipped to handle them than we were last year? If we have seriously considered our ways of the past and have realized what our reactions were then, we can learn from those situations. Whether we handled the past situations well or ill, we can learn from them. If we handled them wrong, then we can this year handle them right. If we did handle them right, then this time we will have more practice toward handling them right again. Just as a physical task becomes easier through repetition so Spiritual tasks become easier through being done again and again.

We should be careful that our response to the problems of this year is not dictated by selfishness, anger or getting even. If we are to respond as a Christian we must respond as Christ did. Over and over we find His reaction to various situations in the Bible. He was not treated as the Son of God should have been, but we do not find Him responding in malice. If we allowed the mind of Christ to be perfectly reproduced within us, we would perfectly respond to every situation. But we, unfortunately, because of our worldly and human desires and natures do not allow Him complete control. Therefore, we do not always respond as we should.

We need to look at ourselves as God looks at us, through the mirror of His Word. Once we identify our sins and shortcomings we should confess them to Him. He is ready and willing to forgive and to cleanse us. If our sin involves another, then we should use the law of pardon, as we promised when we entered the Church. By using these God-given means, our memories can become a tool whereby we can improve our future Spiritually.

Do not live in the past but profit from it so your new year can be a blessing to you and a glory to God.

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord all the earth." *Psa. 96:1*. Resolutions usually don't last, and may seem like a poor way to start the new year. But there is a good way to begin the year — with praise! Generally, we think of ending the year with thanksgiving and praise, and have a day set aside for it in November. That is fine, but God deserves our praise as the year begins as well. Directing our attention to God right away puts our priorities in the right order. Thanking God should be our first thought, not an after-thought.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." *Lam. 3:22-23*. God cares about us and cares for us everyday. We don't need to worry that God will suddenly forget us, but we must be careful not to forget Him. We need to recognize that our very existence depends on Him, as we experience His care each day.

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." *I Cor. 5:7*. People clean their houses and garages to get rid of dirt and useless items. Likewise, we need to clean our spiritual houses, and get rid of things which don't belong there. The cleansing must start with accepting Christ into our hearts, and then it must continue on during our lifetimes. We can't do the job once and quit. If you haven't done any ridding out lately in your spiritual house, the beginning of the year is a good time to start.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." *Ezek. 36:26*. God will give you a new heart anytime; He won't make you wait for a certain time of year. When He takes away your hard heart, you will be a new person. A new spirit will take over, and your goals and desires will change. Are you starting out the new year with a new heart?

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have love you, that ye also love one another." *John 13:34*. One sign that you have a new heart and spirit is your observance of this commandment. A person who still has his old, hard heart cannot love others as Jesus commanded, but is filled with love for himself. Loving others and reaching out to them in compassion identifies us with Christ, the One who makes all things new.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." *II Cor. 5:17*. One year passes away, and the next comes to us fresh and new. If the old man has passed away and you have been made new

in Christ, you are ready for the new year. With Christ, your new year can be really worthwhile, better than the last. But, if you hold on to your old ways and desires, your new year may not be good at all. Which shall it be for you?

Thoughts of God should come first in our lives, whether at the beginning of a year or at the end. We should have our hearts and minds set on pleasing Him. As we begin this new year, may God bless us and direct us to a closer walk with Him.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1925

ANOTHER YEAR

B. E. Kesler

From year's end to year's end seems but a little while to us. And the more years we live the shorter they are, apparently. There are so many things which we had hoped to do, and for which the year was not long enough. Will we do any better with the coming year on whose threshold we are now standing? And how will it be with us when we have reached the last end and are standing on the threshold of eternity? Will we look back then and see many things left undone that should have been done? God grant that it may be so with us, for then it will be forever too late to do them. While we can look forward to another year we can plan to do better, to be better; but when the last backward look comes we shall have no time for correcting mistakes. As our account is then so will it be forever: the book of life will have been written, and we must meet the record, be judged by it, and take our place for eternity.

It is a solemn thought; yet it is one which we should not try to dismiss from our minds too soon. No matter what we have done, it is hardly possible that we could not have done more and better. And in this case the very best we could have done is none too good. After we have done all that we could we shall still be unprofitable servants to our Lord. To him we owe everything that is good; and we see so little that we have done in return. It ought not to be that way with us; it must not be that way at last, for that would mean such a great loss, one that is irreparable in time or eternity.

What have we done during the past year? What have we done? Have we tried to do God's will in all things? Or have we just drifted along with the crowd that knows not God and does not even make an effort to do his will? We ought not to wait till the end of the year before summing up, going over the records with all care,

and not seeking to make our life look better than it has been; for any effort of that kind will be in vain. We can not deceive the Judge before whom we shall stand. If we have honestly tried to be obedient children we need have no fear, for he is merciful as well as just. But if we have sought to do our own will instead of his, then we must expect to reap as we have sown, and that will not be the happiness about which we have so often sung.

We must think of these things as individuals, and we must also think of them as members of the body of Christ. We do not live to ourselves. Our every action and word influences someone else. Has that influence been for good or for evil? Have we sought to have the church draw closer to God, or have we tried to lead our brethren away from the safe road? It is a terrible thought that we neglect our own eternal welfare, but it seems to me it must be a much worse one to destroy the faith of another. What atonement can there be for that? Is the church walking closer to Christ because of my influence, or farther from him? Have we tried to get men to look to Christ as the only safe Guide, or to look to scholars and turn their backs to the cross? We cannot be neutral; our influence has been for good or for evil, for the salvation or for the damnation of those who have been with us. Couldn't we have made that influence better many times?

This may be the last year for us: it will be the last for many of our number. What kind of men ought we to be under such circumstances? Have we time to waste over men's ideas of what God may or may not do? Can we afford to be led by men who deny the Lord Jesus? To our own Master we must stand or fall, and if we have taken the word of others when they differed from him, our loss will be very great, and it will be an eternal loss. Stop and think, and then resolve to go ahead in the right way until he shall say that it is enough.

The year is passing, and we cannot stop it; we cannot change anything that we have done or left undone during its course. But we can make up our minds to put behind us everything that is false in our lives; we can make a new and clean record, one of which we never need be ashamed. The past is gone; let it go. Let us start upon a new year from which we shall banish as much of the wrong as we can; and this from our own lives and from the lives of others to the extent of our ability. Time and the things of time are of no moment when we face eternity; and we shall soon be facing it, no matter how young and strong we may be. God grant that we may be able to look toward the change with the faith and the words of Paul, and be able to say in truth, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

IT'S GONE

Two youngsters came in
from recess the other day
They had an awful
fight right after play
— Now a friendship's gone.

A man and a woman sat in court
the other day.
Each wanted to go their
separate way
— Now a home is gone.

Two powerful nations
met in battle the other day.
Such terrible weapons as
were on display
— Now a nation is gone.

The saints of God went
to council the other day.
Heated words were spoken
from lips of clay
— Now a church is gone.

Brethren let us work and pray for the peace, preservation as well as the prosperity of the Lord's Work amid the earth-shaking events of the 20th Century.

Brother Paul Hartz
157 N. Lincoln St.
Palmyra, PA

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"A Short Course in Anatomy"

If you only had a dime in your pocket, you could be as careless and as haphazard as you desire. But, if you were carrying a million dollars in cash to deposit in the bank, your whole attitude would be different. You would be very careful and sober because of the importance of the mission.

Do you understand what your body is? Do you fully realize who lives within you? In Solomon's time, God's presence was in a beautiful temple made of stone, but today, God has made our hearts the place where He abides. If you have been truly born again of the Spirit of God, you carry God in your heart. This should instill in you a sense of awe and respect. You are the **TEMPLE OF GOD**. As the fact sinks deeply into your mind... that you are indeed the

house God lives in, you can do nothing but surrender yourself totally to Him.

Because your heart is Christ's home, He must have control over every part of His house. You no longer have the right to think anything you want to... Jesus has a right to dominate your thoughts. What God's temple looks like on the outside is no longer determined by your taste and your sense of style... what you wear must be acceptable to Jesus. Style goes out and a real understanding of separation and distinction comes in. Neither can God's temple be as lazy as it wants to be. God gets to reform the work habits and actions of His temple.

In addition to moving you to submit to God, realizing that you are His temple will give you a sense of value because you have a great God inside you. You don't have to feel worthless and ugly. Having Him live within you is the greatest privilege in the world.

We have all seen signs saying, "George Washington slept here," but just imagine being able to say, "Jesus Christ dwells here!" I Cor. 6:19 teaches us, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

God planned long ago that each of us should be like Jesus. God isn't like the people who make all kinds of plans and dreams that they can't fulfill. He has the means and the power, as He dwells within us, to work out His plans and His purpose.

The Holy Spirit has put within you the characteristics of the Saviour. This is similar to a child acquiring the characteristics of his parents. However, if a baby left his or her parents and never saw them again, many of the features and characteristics would leave them. Most little children spend hours imitating their parents... and are very successful.

The traits of Jesus placed within you by the Holy Spirit at your conversion and baptism will show more and more as you strive to be like Him. The more time you spend in communion with the One who dwells within you, the more you will think, act and talk like Him.

In the final analysis there are only two molds: you can either be like Jesus or like the world. Jesus and the world are opposites... so it is an either-or proposition. Being like the world is easy. You become the center of the universe there and everything should revolve around you. There is no place within you for God to dwell... no room for Him.

Conform to the image of Jesus... pattern yourself after Him in everyday living, allowing Him to produce His attitudes and actions in you. It may well not make you friends with your peers in the world but I guarantee you that you will be the best of friends with the One who inhabits your Temple.

Brother Leonard Wertz

CHRIST IS COMING

In Romans 14:10, we find these words, "We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." "He hath appointed a day he will judge the world." We know as we look around us how fast the things that we find in the Word of God are coming to pass. The judgment is nigh. Are we awake, or are we asleep? Do we hear the midnight cry?

Many times they have heard about His saving grace, yet there are many who have not accepted the Lord. It seems they have no place for Him in their lives. Can they afford to travel on without Him, living in sin and with no thought about tomorrow? Tomorrow may be a very sad day for many as no one knows what tomorrow will bring. They are here today but may be rushed into eternity tomorrow. This day God has appointed.

Oh, how soon it will be here. When He will come and take the Church, those who have been washed in His blood and have served Him faithfully, to that Home He has prepared for the faithful ones. Now, sinner, do you realize that you will be left behind and the door will be closed? There will be alot of weeping, but it will be too late. Now your fate will have been sealed. Many will cry, "Lord, Lord, open the door," but it will be closed, just like the door of the ark, in the time the people all died in the flood, except the eight souls who had followed God. A Christian life is like a pleasant cruise out on the sea. To me, it is a labor of love, with a promise of life hereafter and a home for all Eternity.

May the Holy Spirit work in each of our lives and help us to make the right choice. There will be pain and sorrow but He will help us to take up the cross and follow all the way. Dear Lord, I ask that you give me grace so the world will see not a wilted shrub but a fruitful tree. Help me to make soul winning the business of my life. O, for a church of men and women who would say and say it honestly — from this time on I want to live for one purpose only, to seek and save the lost as God gives me strength and health, by consecrating my life to Him with earnest and unceasing prayers. And constantly working, I will do all that lays in my power to rescue the perishing. Many people, today, have life insurance. Every company claims they have the best, but the insurance that will last is God the Father. He takes care of us if we are His children. He can protect and care for us when all medicine fails.

Dear ones, why don't you read and study the precious Word of God? Awake from your sleep and go to Jesus for salvation and escape the judgment fire. You must build upon a firm foundation. If you build on sand it surely will fall.

Every day we read how thieves steal our cars and treasures, but when Christ calls us we want our treasures to be up there where thieves never come. I am sure it is better to lose all our earthly treasures than to lose our soul. If we lose our soul it will be for all eternity.

Every day the Saviour is calling and pleading for some one to come to Him and live for Him. Every day some poor soul will exchange time for eternity. He is waiting with His hands beckoning you to come. His precious blood will wash you white as snow. There is room in Heaven for all, who are willing to follow Him. His love for all is everlasting. Will you come and share His presence, His glory, rest and peace?

Sister E. M. Alltus

SATURDAY, THE JEWISH SABBATH, OR SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY, WHICH?

William Root

In this article we want to sum up our proposition, "Sabbaths were to cease." Sabbatarians are living in open rebellion against the doctrine of the Apostle Paul, where he says, "Let no man judge you in meat or in drink,..." They sit in constant judgment of Christians, as to what they say should be observed. They tell us that typical Sabbaths are done away, but the weekly Sabbath remains. The Scriptures we have brought from the Old Testament, in these writings, plainly show that God has included the weekly Sabbath, among Israel's other Sabbaths.

Hence, we say it is "typical Sabbaths" that are meant by the Apostle Paul in Col. 2:16. Also the same language that occurs in Col. 2:16 occurs repeatedly in the Old Testament. Let us notice II Chron. 2:4, "Behold, I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the Lord our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel." Sabbatarians admit that "Sabbaths" in this text includes the weekly Sabbaths. How then, can they honestly deny that Col. 2:16, includes the weekly Sabbaths, when the very same list occurs?

II Chron. 8:13, "Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles." II Chron. 31:3, "He appointed also the

king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the Lord." Also Neh. 10:33, "For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God." Ezek. 45:17, "And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel."

Paul further adds, in confronting Judaizing teachers, "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you." Gal. 4:10-11. The above Scriptures shew an oft repeated list of feasts under the law, that certain proselyted Jews were keeping, continuing until the days of Paul, from which the Apostle sought to turn those brethren away. Also we note: "One believeth that he may eat all things,... Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not... One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike." Now, listen to the reproof, "Why dost thou judge thy brother?... Let us not therefore judge one another any more." Rom. 14:2-13. Whatever this text might include, it stands as a bold reproof of the custom of practicing under the Gospel, the feasts and sacred days kept under the law. Therefore Sabbaths were to cease.

Our next proposition is, "Christ Is A Law Giver." God gave His law to Israel, through Moses, including the ten commandments; hence, they are termed the Law of Moses. Mal. 4:4, "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him for all Israel." It was a very strict law, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses." Heb. 10:28. "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ," John 1:17. Gal. 3:24, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." By these Scriptures we learn that the law of "grace and truth," came by the One true law giver, the Eternal God the Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Also we note: John 7:19, 23, "Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?" "If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; ye are angry at me, because I have

made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?" We see here that Jesus Himself was a law over the Sabbath, that He had power and authority to change the "Sabbath Day," He is a law giver. Acts 13:39, "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Under the Gospel God gives His law through Christ, by which Christ became our lawgiver; hence the phrase, "the law of Christ." The Apostle Peter glorifies Christ, showing that He is the fulfillment of prophecy, concerning the law of Moses. Acts 3:22, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you." Also Stephen, in that magnificent sermon, which cost him his life, declares, Acts 7:37, "This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren like unto me; him shall ye hear." At the transfiguration a voice from the clouds said, "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

In Israel's propheticall allusion to Christ, the prophet says, "The isles shall wait thy law." The Apostle bids us, "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2. James says, "There is one lawgiver." This is evidently the person under the Gospel, vested with "all power," whom God Himself said we should hear. Christ assures us that "no man cometh to the Father but by me." He being vested with the high authority as lawgiver, He could well say "A new commandment I give unto you." John 13:34. Also in His great Commission, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matt. 28:20.

If Moses, who was a type of Christ, though a servant, was lawgiver, how much more would Christ the Son of God be a lawgiver, to whom "all power was given in heaven and in earth." As Christ came to the Jews as a lawgiver, a King, and as He taught them a new system, a new order of things, naturally He knew quite well the danger there would be of Him being looked upon as a rival of Moses; hence, in His first sermon, He explains, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law but to fulfill the law." Isaiah says, in honor to the law, alluding to Christ, "He will magnify the law, and make it honourable," Isa. 42:21. How did Christ "magnify the law"? Sabbatarians answer, "By vindicating the ten commandments and the Sabbath." Nevertheless, Christ said, "The Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." That which we are lord of, is subject to our control. The above remark of Christ does not vindicate the ancient Sabbath.

- To be continued
Selected by Joseph Lavy

OBITUARIES**WALTER W. BIRD**

Bro. Walter William Bird, son of Ralph and Mary (Ratliff) Bird, was born August 30, 1919, in Blackford County, near Hartford City, Indiana. After a long illness he quietly passed away in the early morning hours of December 7, 1984 at the Colonial Oaks Nursing Home, Marion, Indiana, making his sojourn here 65 years, 3 months, and 7 days.

Early in life he accepted Jesus as his Saviour, and was baptized into the Church of the Brethren at Bethel Center, near Hartford City, Indiana. Later, in October, 1940, he became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church at Plevna, Indiana.

On December 15, 1944, he was united in marriage to Esther Lorenz, who survives. They shared together the joys as well as the heartaches that come in this earthly life.

The earlier part of his life was spent in Blackford County, Indiana.

In September, 1942, he was called to serve his country. As a conscientious objector, he worked in many government projects in Henry, Illinois; Downey, Idaho; and Dayton, Ohio; until April, 1946.

After moving back to Indiana, he was employed at Delco Electronics, Kokomo, Indiana, for twenty-four years.

In December, 1958, he was called to the office of Deacon. In June, 1963, he was installed in the Ministry, and in May, 1966, he was ordained to the Eldership. He also served as Editor of the Bible Monitor as long as health permitted.

Surviving with his companion is his aged mother, Mary Borton.

We would not have you live
In this world of doubts and fears
When we think of you in Heaven
Beyond the veil of tears.

We would not bid you tarry,
Because we loved you so,
Where joys met many heartaches
To turn my mirth to woe.

We would not call you back
To griefs and pains you knew,
Where days were full of sorrows,
And nights held doubts for you.

We do not wish you here
On earthly beds of pain,
But rejoice that Heaven enfolds you,
And that we shall meet again.

Although we miss your cheery smile
And merry, twinkling eye,
We're glad to know you're happy
Where none shall ever die.

Where all is peace, sweet peace,
No doubts or fears to fret,
No illness, disappointments
Shall evermore be met.

Where we'll know as we are known
When the mists have cleared away;
Then you'll hasten to greet us
In that eternal day.

Funeral services were conducted on Sunday, December 9, at the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church, by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Elder Robert Carpenter. Interment was in the Kokomo Zion Cemetery.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all for the prayers, cards and letters, visits, and the kind expressions of sympathy during this time of sickness and bereavement.

- The Family

MARY GEHR

Sis. Mary Ellen Gehr, daughter of Harry and Florence (Benedick) Wingert, was born October 9, 1900, near Lemasters, Pennsylvania and departed this life July 15, 1984 at Westview Acres Nursing Home, Leon, Iowa at the age of 83 years, 9 months and 6 days.

On November 19, 1925 she was united in marriage to Clarence Gehr. To this union was born one daughter, Hazel.

Mary came to Iowa in March, 1911 with her parents. As a young woman she dedicated her life to the Lord, being baptized into the Church of the Brethren. She later affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren Church, Dallas Center, Iowa, where she was a charter member. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and friend to all whom she met.

She leaves to mourn her departure, her husband, Clarence; daughter Hazel; son-in-law, Burrell Braby, Garden Grove, Iowa; four grandchildren, Marilyn Braby, Phoenix, Arizona; Linda Feagin and husband Ed, Houston, Texas; Donald Braby, Boston, Massachusetts, and Carol Tait and husband Randal, Osceola, Iowa; three great grandchildren, Nova Feagin, Westley and Kristopher Tait. Two sisters, Evelyn Faderon and husband Vincent, Pasadena, California and Lucille Andrews, Dallas Center, Iowa; three sisters-in-law, Golda Wingert, Perry, Iowa; Mary Gehr Hull and Ruth Gehr Wingert,

St. Thomas, Pennsylvania; nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother David and sister-in-law, Ruth Wingert, Ontario, California and brother Orville, Pasadena, California, and brother-in-law, Harry Andrews, Dallas Center, Iowa.

NEWS ITEM

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Word was preached and the Lord has spoken to us through Bro. Leonard Wertz. The revivals held November 11 through 25 will make all of us at the Lititz Congregation more responsible for the lives we live.

We have heard the importance of living a life of nonconformity, Romans 12:1-5. May we all strive harder to live the kind of life, Christ would have us to live. Could we have the Love, Humility and Meekness the Lord would want us to have? It would certainly unite us in love and unity.

There were eight souls who accepted Christ as their Savior during these meetings. May we all pray for them to remain true and faithful in these evil days.

The members were happy to have Sis. Ronda, Todd and Bradley with us. May the Lord bless the Wertz family as they labor for Him.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.



PERSECUTION A BENEFIT

As frankincense, when it is put into the fire, gives the best perfume; as spice, if pounded and beaten, smells the sweetest; as the earth, when torn up by the plow, becomes more fruitful; as rose leaves give the finest odor after hard pressure, and the grape vine yields best after cutting, so the children of God are improved by persecution.



MEETING PERSECUTION

The best way to meet persecution and slander is by a calm, unruffled deportment. A Christian cannot afford to spend his precious time in stoning every dog that barks at him, nor in throwing back the clubs that are maliciously hurled at him. God and the Christian's own life and testimony will eventually vindicate him if he is in the right. There is such a thing as living down and shining down slander and false reports before honest and discerning people.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

JANUARY 15, 1985

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NOW, I RESOLVE

Now I resolve with all my heart,
With all my pow'rs to serve the Lord;
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,
Whose service is a rich reward.

O be his service all my joy!
Around let my example shine,
Till others love the blest employ,
And join in labors so divine.

Be this the purpose of my soul,
My solemn, my determined choice,
To yield to his supreme control,
And in his kind commands rejoice.

O may I never faint nor tire,
Nor, wand'ring, leave his sacred ways;
Great God, accept my soul's desire,
And give me strength to live thy praise.

- Miss Anne Steele

JESUS' OPPONENTS

During Jesus' ministry, He met much opposition. Even some of His disciples left to follow Him no more. His closest companions, the Apostles, fled when He was arrested and at best followed Him afar off. Even within His earthly family He had opposition. But the opposition that was most notable was that of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Their opposition was organized and blatant.

Today Jesus still has opposition. There are those who begin to follow Him but later leave. Some still follow afar off, hardly close enough to be identified with Him. Today, He is still opposed by the Sadducees and Pharisees. Of course they go by different names now but those who oppose Jesus today are the spiritual heirs of those who opposed Him long ago.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were normally opposed to each other. They each sought position and popularity through the politics of getting along with the Roman government. Although each would have preferred to not be under Rome's dominion, they each sought to advance themselves with that government. Despite their opposition to each other, the one cause that could unite them was their opposition to Jesus. They conspired together to bring about His death. The Pharisees were the more numerous but the Sadducees held the high priesthood so it took cooperation to bring Him before Pilate for official condemnation.

We live in a world full of "isms", political and religious. There are all shades of belief and practice. Yet we find that many of these "isms" are brought into an uneasy alliance to oppose Jesus and His present day Church. We think especially of the Sadducees and Pharisees of today who are probably the most numerous and notable. They may also be the most subtle, for their work is done under the guise of religion and in the name of God.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JANUARY 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Lithographing Co., Rt. 4, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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The Sadducees were the modernists of that day. They were not orthodox in their belief or practice. It is noted in Scripture that they did not believe in the existence of angels or of things supernatural. Perhaps because of their education or their position they could not accept such old-fashioned beliefs. They were too wise to be fooled by the miracles performed by Jesus. They did not accept the Bible as the Word of God therefore they were not bound by its teachings or history. What was outside their understanding, they assumed was mythical. While they still spoke of God and continued some of the forms of worship, their hearts were not interested in Spiritual solutions to the problems about them. They were interested in political and economic solutions. Their description fits the modernistic, political, irreligious groups of today who have a program of social, economic, political justice, but who do not know the Spiritual.

More subtle is the opposition of the Pharisees of today. They like their long-ago counterparts appear to serve God. They were very orthodox. They did not deny the existence of angels or the miraculous. They were zealous of His law and ways. Their problem was that they had subtly changed that law from God's to their own. It was still presented as God's law and there was an outward appearance of worship, but their worship was an empty shell, likened by Jesus, to a whited sepulcher full of dead men's bones. The Pharisees were active in their religious service, even seeking new converts. Jesus' estimation of the Pharisees is contained in one word — hypocrites. They sought every opportunity to embarrass and finally to kill Jesus. Like the Sadducees they were involved in gaining the government's favor for their programs. Today's Pharisees are very subtle for they seem to be religious and orthodox. They speak with the authority of His Word, but like the Pharisees they have changed God's law into their own. They speak of the fundamentals of the faith but have denied them in practice. They have depended upon "faith only" and "eternal security" in place of the plan of salvation established by God. They have thrown overboard the standards and boundaries set by the Word of God and replaced it with their own ideas of right and wrong. They have many different names today but they have left behind the disciplined Christian life demanded by the Bible. These modern day Pharisees are opponents of Jesus and the Church.

Do not be numbered among the Pharisees or the Sadducees. Do not choose a party, but choose the Biblical Christian life. Do not be an opponent of Jesus. He wants you to be His friend.

THE MESSAGE OF NEHEMIAH

The king's cupbearer heard some very shocking and disturbing news. "... the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire." That news and the action of the cupbearer was to change the course of a broken and enslaved people, the Jews. Nehemiah's response to that bitter report was to weep, mourn, fast and pray for "certain days."

Finally, a course of action was decided upon. First, Nehemiah was to take his case to the highest court in all the universe. To God. His words were words of confession of the sin of the people followed by true repentance. Not once, but repeatedly.

Secondly, with the blessings of the Lord upon this Godly man, Nehemiah was next to take his case to the king and make his request to return to the city of his fathers and rebuild it. This is a good example of what we are taught in Proverbs 16:7. "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Thirdly, Nehemiah now went to his brethren and said, "... come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem." The Jews who had been a hard and stiffnecked people were now ready to follow the leadership of Nehemiah. They strengthened their hands for the good work and in the presence of ridicule and cruel mocking, the work was done, "... for the people had a mind to work."

In fifty-two days, the work was completed. We might think that such a great task would have taken much longer and it would have without the enthusiasm which Nehemiah was able to incite and that the "... work was wrought of our God."

Do we today hear the message of Nehemiah? We who call ourselves "Dunkard Brethren" as well as all others need to seriously consider that which Nehemiah teaches us.

First, the work is before us. It is great. In our own strength, it is an impossible task. Today, the walls of Zion need to be carefully maintained. Breaches need to be promptly repaired or the enemy will laugh and the inhabitants of Zion will become a reproach.

Second the cause is the Lord's. We have a great God, who the scripture says, will not be mocked. We are admonished to be strong, quit ourselves like men that our energies might be spent in building up the kingdom of our God.

There are several alternatives which we have to choose from. 1. We can be at ease in Zion and watch as the walls continue to crumble. 2. We can in confusion fight among ourselves and destroy one another as did the Philistines in I Samuel 14. The wall

will still continue to crumble. Or 3. we can do as Nehemiah and his people did to revive the stones out of heapes and put our shoulder to the task of rebuilding the walls of Zion.

May we choose the latter of the three alternatives and let the work be "wrought of our God" through us.

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Ps. 133:1.

Submitted in the interest of building.

Brother David Skiles

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Fear"

This is the age of fear. Its force is so great in many lives today that it becomes a totally controlling factor. It is an established fact that the majority of people in hospitals around the United States are there not because of physical illness, but because of illness of the psyche or mind. One of the main contributors to psychological disturbance is fear.

The Psalmist David had no training in psychology but he had a lot of experience with fear. And he had a lot of faith!

We read in Psalm 27 about David's strength in the Lord. He had been removed from his throne, was a victim of conspiracy, had gone into hiding, and had set himself against an onslaught by his son, Absalom. David knew fear!

God has given us differing personalities. Some are phlegmatic, some sanguine, choleric, melancholic or combinations of these types. Some personality types are less prone to fear than others.

Humanists tell us that we are what we are because of the environment in which we live. Everything is determined by circumstances outside our control they say. This is only partially true. A boy raised by a domineering dad who ridicules him every time he opens his mouth will probably grow up to have an overwhelming dread of having to express himself in public. But ultimately I believe we are looking at a spiritual problem of fear. **SIN CAUSES FEAR.** Uncertainty concerning the future is an overwhelming problem for many people. And without Christ in their lives, this is to be expected. Globally, life is uncertain. World peace is fragile, ideological forces are frightening. Wives worry about being traded in for a new model. Children wonder if their parents will stay together. Men fear losing their jobs. Satan's end time efforts are paying him big dividends.

Even your past gets into the act. There is a skeleton in your

closet and you are fearful of its exposure or that God might not have really forgiven you, even though He has promised He would if you repented. Premarital immoral behavior gnaws at your insides. Feelings of inadequacy eat away at your peace.

Don't continue to walk in the darkness of fear. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. That light is Jesus Christ. We can't know exactly what the future holds, but we CAN KNOW WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE. Your trust in Him will net you blessed assurance, joy and confidence. To death and beyond, we can shout with Paul, "O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?" There need be no fear of our future in Him.

All sin is against God and unless we rid our life of sin, an adequate answer to guilt can not be discovered. Worldly counselors would disagree with this statement but when we begin to see the standards that God has laid down for us, when we understand that our actions must match those standards... then we will understand that our troubles are a result of being out of step with Him.

Eliminate the sin, admit the guilt to Heaven, ask for forgiveness and He will free you from fear. It is about time that we become excited about being forgiven, too. Optimism and a light heart dispels fear. Your freedom will come as you better sense the saving, forgiving power of Christ in your life.

Admit that you have limitations, get rid of your ego. Don't endeavour to be what God has not meant you to be. Discontinue "comparing yourselves among yourselves..." Ask God to reveal to you what He wants you to be. Then, make a total commitment to do it and God will equip you with the necessary talents and emotions. God's strength is there even in your busy life. Ask Him for it and depend on Him that he might bear the load for you. Jesus NEVER fails.

The Lord is your light, your strength and your salvation... just as He was David's. Escape into Him. Understand we are not talking about escaping reality. Drugs and drink offer that alternative. CHRIST IS REALITY.

Once you have victory over fear you can become the encourager of the fearful. Share what the Lord has done in your life. Live above Satan's fate of the humanist Christian and the unbeliever. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He SHALL (not possibly) strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Brother Leonard Wertz



Temptation begins close to the line between right and wrong.

SIXTY YEARS AGO**THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Matthew 28:18-20

A. W. Zeigler

We hear a great deal said these days about the great commission. I should have said a part of the commission. As there is very little heard about the twentieth verse. I have been studying this subject for some time, and have been wondering why there is so much said about the eighteenth and nineteenth verses and scarcely anything said about the twentieth verse, especially in the last ten or twelve years. And I have come to the conclusion that it is because of the intermingling with all sorts of faiths and beliefs, and bidding them God speed. This intermingling is caused through the worldly knowledge through the influence of the schools in which the love of God is a secondary matter. What will it profit anyone to live strictly to the nineteenth verse and forget the twentieth verse. There is no promise in the nineteenth verse if the twentieth verse is left out. There is no promise anywhere in the New Testament without the consideration of this verse. Why then put so much stress on one part of the commission and scarcely any on another part. If the most important part is not worth while teaching what is there in teaching any? Do we believe ALL power is given Him in heaven and in earth? Do we believe in teaching ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost? We say, "Yes," why then, do we not believe in "teaching them to observe ALL things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, EVEN unto the end of the world. Amen." If verse nineteen is more binding than verse twenty, I fail to see it. I am afraid we are overlooking the ALL THINGS, in verse twenty. Here is where he has promised to be with us always if we teach the ALL THINGS. These ALL THINGS is the key that must be kept in the steering wheel of the Gospel ship. If this key is lost out of the steering wheel the controlling power is lost, and when I see the way things are moving worldward in the church I cannot help but think that the key has lost out.

I John 5:2-3, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." God has not given us any command that he did not want us to obey. It matters not what some smart people say, that does not change God's word any, for his word will stand when all other things have passed away. But when we see so many worldly things coming into the church today, how can we expect

anything else than that she will lose the power she once had. No wonder some of those leaders at the head of the zion ship are wondering what is the matter when they see that the ship does not sway to every turn of the steering wheel, and wondering whether we are short of grace or money. I think it would be well for them to make a little closer inspection of the steering wheel. You know there has many lives been lost in the past by those book manufactured engineers without having the practical experience; they sometimes get to tinkering with the governors and the first thing they know the machine is running wild. The same thing is happening to some of those college manufactured leaders without having the practical experience. Is it grace or is it money that we lack? I think it is grace that we lack. But it might be that we are expecting all the grace from the back end of the ship, and not everyone is ready to take chance on a ship with a loose steering wheel, and I hope and pray that the leaders at the steering wheel will discover their mistakes and reinstate Matt. 28:20 in their leadership.

THE END OF THE ROPE

"My brethren, count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (Suggested reading James 1:2-12)

Most of us do not like it when trials and temptations come, and when they come in bunches, we like it even less. There are times when the distress we feel in our hearts and souls is nearly overwhelming. When we've reached the end of the rope and can go no further, joy is probably the farthest thing from our minds. We are hoping instead for help, for relief, for a way out. Yet it may be that God is allowing the distress to continue for a special reason.

When troubles and heartaches bear down on us and we can't understand what it's all about, it may seem that God has forsaken us. Our prayers seem to be unheard, our pleas for help ignored. When it appears that God isn't paying attention to our need, our distress increases, and the pressure may make us feel like we are about to explode. We've truly reached the end of the rope, and only then does God help us. Why?

God wants us to be patient, a quality most of us lack. Being patient means we calmly endure, we can wait for something without fretting, and so forth. We may find it easy to be patient in some situations, and yet be very impatient in others, but we need patience in all matters, not just one or two. Patience doesn't come naturally, so we must be taught by having to wait. If God did everything for us at the exact moment we ask for help, we would never learn to be patient.

Why does God let us go to the end of our rope? Why does He allow us to feel so helpless and so hopeless at times? Sometimes, God waits till we reach the end of our rope because we won't listen to Him and we keep trying to solve the problem in our own way. Other times, He makes us wait because the time is not right for our request to be granted. When the time is right, He will take care of it. At still other times, God makes us wait to test our faith. When we have no idea which way to turn and everything looks hopeless, will we still go on serving God? If we do, this is real faith.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13. When we are in great distress, we tend to think that no one else ever had it so bad. The truth is others have had similar experiences. Rather than noting how bad things are, consider what it would be like if God didn't limit what we must bear. It is comforting to know that God will not allow us to be overwhelmed, but will help us one way or another.

"But the God of all grace... after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Peter 5:10. The suffering must come first, partly to correct us, partly to bring out the best in us, as gold tried in the fire. When we have experienced God's care during times of suffering and distress, we become more stable in our faith in Him. God's strength becomes our strength, and we learn to be more patient in times of waiting.

Patience is greatly needed in the Christian walk, both for a testimony and for stability. An impatient person is not a trusting, faith-filled person, and tends to be wishy-washy about life in general. It pays to be able to wait on God, to endure until He gives us His best. An impatient person will never get anything but second, or even third, best, simply because he thinks only of this moment and will not wait on God. By not waiting, we cheat ourselves, but may also cheat others out of a blessing.

The blessing comes after the trial, the victory comes after the battle, the prize is given at the end of the race. The problems of life may come thick and fast, the pressure may be terrific, but God will be with you. Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. When the disciples thought their boat was about to sink, they said to Jesus, "Carest thou not that we perish?" Jesus certainly does care, and you can be sure that He will take care of you, especially when you've come to the end of the rope. "Casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you."

Sister Eileen Broadwater

SATURDAY, THE JEWISH SABBATH OR SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY, WHICH?

William Root

In the Lord's great sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:21, He quotes the sixth commandment. In the 27th verse He recites the seventh. In the same connection He quotes a number of different ceremonial laws of the Jews, following each quotation with the peculiar expression, "But I say unto you," which unmistakably indicates that the law He is presenting is superior to the law from which He is quoting. That law includes the ten commandments. So, we see Christ fails to "magnify the law" of Moses by giving it His sanction, as Sabbatarians teach. Therefore how did Christ magnify the law? We answer, By meeting its types and fulfilling its predictions.

He, coming into the world as He did, rendered the prophecy of Moses, Deut. 18:15, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken." See Isa. 53. Mich. 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Christ's coming as He did greatly magnified the law of the temple services, their offerings, their priesthood, by meeting them as their antitype. Having served the purpose intended they ceased. His coming was proof of the truthfulness of the sayings of the prophets. Christ did not come to break the law but to fulfill it; hence while "the law was given by Moses, grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17.

Sabbatarian writers make a peculiar classification of the law of Moses. That part of the law, governing the ceremonies in their worship, they call "the ceremonial law." While the ten commandments they term "the law of God, God's commandments." We quote from one of their works, entitled "Two Laws," page 76, "In I Cor. 7:19, the apostle again shows a marked distinction between the two laws; circumcision, and uncircumcision is nothing. The keeping of the commandments of God, that is, the keeping of the ceremonial law, or its neglect, amounts to nothing, but the important thing is to keep God's commandments." Also on page 77, describing the saints who live at the second advent, they quote, the Lord says: "Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12, and they say, "The faith of Jesus embraces the Gospel, the teachings of Christ. The commandments are those of God the Father, — his moral law, the ten commandments." (End quote.)

Also in their work by T. H. Wagoner, "Truth Found" page 35,

the author says, and we quote — "We would not ask you to keep the law of Moses nor any of the Jewish ceremonies; they have ceased, but we speak in behalf of God's law and his holy rest day, instituted before the Jewish rites of the Jews themselves existed." (End quote.) To this we reply, the Bible makes no such distinction. God called Moses and said to him, "Now therefore go and I will be with thy mouth and teach thee what thou shalt say," Exod. 4:12. Hence, Moses was simply God's mouthpiece; therefore the laws and commandments of Moses were laws and commandments of God. Other testimony, showing that this classification made by Sab-batarians is not true, we name that the law of Moses is termed "their law" in John 15:25; "your law" in John 18:31. Also in Acts 10:34, and 18:15, it is stated "your law", and again "our law" in John 19:7; Acts 24:6. This language is all true in one sense; but in a higher sense they are God's laws.

Concerning Christ's mission He Himself explains, "The Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment what I should say, and what I should speak." John 12:49. Therefore the commandment of Jesus and the laws of Christ are all God's. In II John 4 we read, "I rejoice greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth as we have received a commandment from the Father." Doubtless, alluding to the voice at the transfiguration, "Hear ye him," Christ assures us, "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love." John 15:10, and in Acts 1:2 it is said, "He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments." Also in I Cor. 14:37 the apostle asks us to "acknowledge that the things that I write are the commandments of the Lord." Hence, the teachings of Christ, and of the Holy Ghost, and of the apostle, were all of God.

The facts are that God empowered His Son, Jesus Christ, and Christ empowered His apostles through the Holy Ghost. In Heb. 1:1-2, The Word plainly states, "God who spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." Therefore the Old Testament and the New Testament are all teachings and commandments of God through different mediums, or agents. Those who teach the seventh day Sabbath, criticize the idea of Christ the Son fulfilling, setting aside, and thus abolishing the Father's law. We explain again by quoting, once more: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Col. 2:16-17.

God's law by Moses was only the shadow of His law given by Christ. That law by Moses did all its Author intended; it was to remain only "till the seed should come." The law was a shadow; the Gospel, the substance. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass

away, but my words shall not pass away." It is a sad fact that Sabbatarians teach the following: "The New Testament alone does not furnish sufficient instructions upon every moral duty." (See "Two Laws," page 90.) Mark this language: "not sufficient," and so forth giving the idea you must supply some teaching to the Gospel to get a complete system. Remember the words at the Transfiguration God said, "Hear ye him." Sabbatarians say, "Hear Christ in the Gospel and God in the ten commandments." Moses, as previously quoted in his prophetic allusion to Christ, said, "Him shall ye hear in all things that he shall say unto you." In this Sabbatarians add, "and the ten commandments."

Remember, friends, the great commission, Matt. 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Not so, say Sabbatarians, "as Christ did not embody the fourth commandment in His teachings, therefore Christ's teaching is not sufficient upon every moral duty; hence Christ's teaching must be supplemented with the ten commandments." Therefore they are guilty of the grave sin of adding to the Gospel of Christ, and are at variance with the writings of the New Testament. See Rev. 22:18-19. In summing up this proposition, we affirm, that the New Covenant is faultless, Heb. 8, that we are "thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:17, that the Gospel is "a perfect law of liberty." James 1:25.

Previous to Israel's exodus from Egypt, they dwelt among other nations and were governed by the laws of the nations in which they dwelt. Leaving Egypt it became necessary for them to have laws for their protection. The Decalogue was the basis of their law both religious and civil. The first table contained general laws, governing their religious services. The second table embodies general principles for their civil code. Their government was purely a union of church and state. That the Decalogue was simply an outline, virtually, of principles is clear when we remember that they were as written on stone without penalty. It is sometimes said, "No law, no penalty:" we now say, in a sense, no penalty, no law.

Having driven out Hagar, the bondwoman, the old covenant, we now become heirs of the freewoman — Christ. We are called upon from the clouds, "Hear ye him." In doing so we find that this Christ, this Lawgiver has incorporated into His law many of the laws of Moses, including a number of the items of the Decalogue. Therefore, when men teach that the "ten commandments" are the law for the salvation of sinners, as written in the Old Covenant, we should point them to the law of the New Testament, as written in the Gospel. Christ, as shown above, incorporated at least nine of those commandments in the new law. He is the Divine law giver.

To be continued

Selected by Joseph Lavy

SATAN'S DECEITFUL OFFERINGS

Satan first appeared with his deceitful offering in the Garden of Eden. He convinced Eve to partake and eat of the fruit that God commanded them not to eat. Adam also fell to the deceitfulness of Satan. The results were banishment from the Garden of Eden and death for them and all mankind.

Satan has been busy with his deceitful offerings throughout all ages. He appeared in the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent. He also makes appearances as an angel of light. He appeared to our Lord and Saviour with his deceitful offerings. He tried to get Him to obey him and perform a miracle. He deceitfully offered Him all the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him. Christ answered him, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve."

Satan has been victorious with many of his deceitful offerings. Satan offers and convinces many people that they can use tobacco and many other things that are harmful to their health. He says that it is not wrong. Among his offerings are enmity, hatred and strife causing children to disobey and disrespect their Christian parents. He also convinces people to believe it is alright for men and women to live together and raise children without marriage. He makes people believe that abortion, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage is alright. He convinces them that it is alright for people to appear in public with a small part of their body clothed. Satan is the author of all falsehood and deceitfulness. He is the cause of untruthfulness and dishonesty.

In the time of the Apostles, Satan won a victory over Ananias and Sapphira. We may consider Satan to be the busiest worker in the Church because he never takes a rest. His works are deceitful and if it were possible he would deceive the very elect.

We are living in a time when professing Christians are ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse deceiving and being deceived. Satan's deceitful offerings are victorious with many. He is controlling many Church members but is not controlling true Christians.

Satan is the author of all selfishness, selfrighteousness, unrighteous judgment and injustice. He is behind those who become stumbling blocks and hinder others from the way of truth and righteousness.

It is necessary to stand against all the snares Satan is offering to mankind. Satan wants us to not do good to others but rather place unjust hardships upon others. He has many things to distract the

Christian from the path of truth and righteousness.

He convinces people they can have salvation by accepting a part of the saving Gospel of Christ. In this evil day many professing Christians do not want the way of truth and righteousness. They are trying to climb up some other way.

Satan won a great victory when prayer and Bible reading were taken out of our public schools. The men who are responsible for it are not like our ancestors who have made this country great. A turn to sin and wickedness is a downfall of a nation. What we need is more prayer and Bible reading for the tender minds and hearts of our nation. What we need also is to turn away from sin and wickedness and the Lord promises to heal our land.

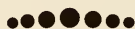
Satan did not get Christ to serve two masters. It appears today many think it can be done. But by doing so they have lost favor with God. What is our choice, sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness?

Through Satan's deceitful offerings some have departed from the faith "... giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world... and are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

The Scriptures teach that we cannot be a faithful servant of God and follow the way of sin and wickedness that is on the broad way and goeth to destruction.

Let us not be among those who are receiving strong delusions causing them to believe a lie and in the end be damned. To inherit the glorious, eternal reward, we must stand against all the deceitful offerings of Satan. In these perilous times we must seek truth and righteousness. We must make sure that we have and do not depart from the faith once and for all delivered unto the saints.

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GOD'S BUSINESS FIRST

While Usher was in the pulpit preaching, a message arrived stating that the king wanted to see him at once. He came down from the pulpit, listened to the command, and then told the messenger that he was employed in God's business, but as soon as he was through with it, he would answer the king's summons. He then resumed his sermon.

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation again had the privilege of enjoying another Lovefeast in November. We were happy for the fellowship with those of other congregations who came to be with us. Our thanks of appreciation to the visiting ministers who came and preached the Word. They were Brethren: Joshua Rice, Laverne Keeney, Elton Mallow, Allen Eberly and Virgil Leatherman, who officiated in the evening.

Our Revival Meetings were very well attended by the congregations, and other visitors. Bro. Leonard Wertz, our evangelist, gave us many challenging and inspiring messages. Near the close of the meetings there were two persons baptized. We were happy to have the Wertz family with us. We pray God's blessings and guidance for Bro. Leonard and family as they go on in His service.

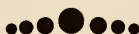
Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

NOTICE

Dunker Reprints Presents: Peter Nead's "Theological Writings on Various Subjects", the first major English exposition of Brethren doctrine, will be available in May, 1985. Pre-publication price is \$9.95 post paid. (10 or more copies to one address \$8.95 each). Post-publication price will be \$12.95 plus .55 postage and handling. Send orders to Dunker Reprints, 956 Everett-Hull Road, Cortland, Ohio 44410.



Be a stand-by for your church and not merely a by-stander.



SILENT DEW

Can I see the dew of heaven as it falls on a summer evening? I cannot. It comes down softly, gently, noiselessly and imperceptibly. But when I go forth in the morning after a cloudless night, and see every leaf sparkling with moisture, and feel every blade of grass damp and wet, I say at once. "There has been a dew." Just so it is with the presence and result of the Spirit in the soul of man.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1985

ON CREATED, CREATE, CREATION

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Hebrews 1:10

"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:"

Fri. 1 - Gen. 1:1-31

Sat. 2 - Gen. 2:1-25

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Sun. 3 - Gen. 5:1-32

Mon. 4 - Gen. 6:1-22

Tues. 5 - Deut. 4:25-40

Wed. 6 - Psalms 51:1-19

Thurs. 7 - Psalms 89:1-52

Fri. 8 - Psalms 102:1-28

Sat. 9 - Psalms 104:1-35

Memory Verse: Genesis 2:3

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

Sun. 10 - Isaiah 40:1-31

Mon. 11 - Isaiah 41:1-29

Tues. 12 - Isaiah 42:1-25

Wed. 13 - Isaiah 43:1-28

Thurs. 14 - Isaiah 45:1-25

Fri. 15 - Isaiah 48:1-22

Sat. 16 - Isaiah 54:1-17

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:26

"Lift up your eyes on high, and

behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth."

Sun. 17 - Isaiah 57:1-21

Mon. 18 - Isaiah 65:1-25

Tues. 19 - Jer. 31:15-40

Wed. 20 - Eccl. 12:1-14

Thurs. 21 - Ezek. 21:1-32

Fri. 22 - Ezek. 28:1-26

Sat. 23 - Eph. 2:1-22

Memory Verse: Eph. 2:10

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Sun. 24 - Eph. 3:1-21

Mon. 25 - Eph. 4:1-32

Tues. 26 - Col. 1:1-29

Wed. 27 - Col. 3:1-25

Thurs. 28 - Rev. 4:1-11

Memory Verse: Rev. 4:11

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Rev. 10:6

"And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

FEBRUARY 1, 1985

NO.3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O COME, THOU WOUNDED LAMB OF GOD

O come, thou wounded Lamb of God,
Come, wash us in thy cleansing blood;
Give us to know thy love, then pain
Is sweet, and life or death is gain.

Take our poor hearts, and let them be
Forever closed to all but thee;
Seal thou our breasts, and let us wear
The pledge of love forever there.

How can it be, thou heav'nly King,
That thou shouldst man to glory bring?
Make slaves the partners of thy throne,
And give them an immortal crown!

Ah, Lord, enlarge our scanty thought,
To know the wonders thou hast wrought
Unloose our stamm'ring tongues to tell
Thy love immense, unsearchable.

First born of many brethren, thou,
To thee both earth and heav'n must bow.
Help us to thee our all to give —
Thine may we die, thine may we live.

STRAITENED

"Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels." II Cor. 6:12. The word, "straitened" is a strange word to our ears. In this context it means "to hold back." We more often use this word in the context of the "strait and narrow" road that leads upward to Heaven. There is speaks of a narrowness and self-discipline needed in that upward journey.

Paul writing to the Corinthians had to implore them to a change in their attitudes and lifestyle. The Corinthians were a very worldly people and this worldliness had an effect upon the Church. Here Paul had warned about carnality and pride. The Corinthian Church was not a mature group. They were racked with division and party. They were divided by class. The rich did to please themselves and forgot the poor. Even the Lovefeast service was the scene of division. There were many warnings given them along with admonitions to grow in the Lord and to live more fruitful, disciplined lives.

Paul had a holy desire for the Corinthian Brethren. Like any Christian leader he desired that those whom he led would be productive followers. He wanted them to be Spiritual followers of Christ so the name of Christ would be glorified and not defamed by their lives. Paul does not differ from any dedicated Christian leader of today. He leads not for personal fame or honor but that his followers may better their lives and live closer to God.

Paul looked at the Corinthians, even in their weakness and still loved them. He desired the best for them. He wanted them to willingly improve their living for Christ. Seemingly Paul had a greater desire for their improvement than they did themselves. He sought to motivate them to a better example of Christian living. He was

THE BIBLE MONITOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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doing nothing to hold them back. They were not straitened by him instead he was doing all he could to urge them forward. He not only had preached the Gospel to them in the first place. He had written to them now two times. He had lived in their midst for an extended period of time. Seemingly his presence would have inspired them to greater faithfulness. So it was not Paul who was holding them back. He had done everything that he knew to do for them.

Instead Paul told them that they, not he, were holding themselves back. They were not progressing because they did not desire to progress. They were content to remain on a lower level. They had no desire to do better. Within their inner-most selves they just could not break loose from their old lifestyle and desires. They would not make the changes necessary. They lacked the needed commitment to do all that was needful. They had not reached the stage that Paul had, where he could do all things through Christ which strengthened him. He could see the crown and rest at the end of the struggle; all they could see was the daily task and they had no commitment to improve their lives.

How often yet, today, are Christians like the Corinthians of old. They live to please themselves and to associate as much with the world as possible. There is an idea of meeting a minimum requirement in Christian living. It is a false hope based on the human desire to have the best of this world now and the best of Heaven afterwards. How often are we restrained from giving our best service to God by our inner selves. We have many enemies hindering us from doing our best. Satan, himself, would use every opportunity to draw us aside through temptation. Evil workers around us would draw us aside either through persecution or bribery. But probably our greatest enemy is the enemy within us. Within our emotions and desires lies the problem. Self keeps us from fulfilling our serious promises of faithfulness and service. The things of the world and joys of secular life draw us to give our priority to those things rather than choosing to give our best to our Lord. We are not straitened by the Lord. We are not straitened by our Spiritual leaders. We are straitened within ourselves.

As we read Paul's letters to the Church at Corinth, we wonder how Christians could be so dull of understanding and so undesirous of improving their Christian lives. They are often pointed out to us as worldly, unproductive Christians. We know they had the best of teaching and motivation from Paul, yet they were held back by their own lack of desire. Although we question their response to Paul's efforts, we have only to look at ourselves to see if we have improved upon their response. Are we straitened within ourselves like them?

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism
Plain Dressing
Which is the Right Church?
The Service of Feet Washing as a Religious Rite
What Shall I do with the Commandments of Jesus?
Daily Reminder
The Lord's Supper
The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil
The Brethren's Card
Do You Want Salvation?
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The Sabbath - Its Origin and Observance

PUBLICATION BOARD

Bible Monitor (semi-monthly)
\$2.00 per year in advance.
Brethren Hymnal (heavy back)
\$6.75 ea. \$80.00 doz. Plus Postage
Church Manual \$.30
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Minutes of General Conference in One Volume
\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage each.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as - "thot" for thought, "2" for two, "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleave for believe; recieve for receive; judgement for judgment; ore for or; & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. Feb. - Winterhaven, Ca
Third Sat. March - Quinter, Kansas
First Sat. April - Dallas Center, Iowa
Fourth Sat. April - Pleasant Home, Ca.
Last Sat. April - Grandview, Missouri
Last Sun. April - Bethel, Pa.
First Sun. May - Waynesboro, Pa.
Third Sat. May - Dayton, Virginia
Third Sat. May - West Fulton, Ohio
Third Sun. May - Lititz, Pa.
Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, Pa.
Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, Maryland
Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Shallow Falls, Maryland
Labor Day Weekend - South Fulton, Ill.

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, Md.
Second Sun. Oct. - Waynesboro, Pa.
Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, Virginia
Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, Pa.
Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, Ohio
Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, Pa.
First Sat. Nov. - Newberg, Oregon
First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, Pa.
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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the taking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating or what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and unChristian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Frystown House, located in Frystown, in northwestern Berks Co., one mile south of Route 78 and one mile west of Route 501.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmans-town, in Lebanon Co. or halfway between Schafferstown and Womeisdorf, Pennsylvania.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Rt. #135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Wards Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa., all improved roads. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, one and one-half miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 on to County Rd. R16 at west edge of city. The church is ¾ mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to second stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the South on Route 501, turn right at the fourth stoplight in Lititz, when coming from the North turn left at the first stoplight, which is East Lincoln St. Go to first crossroad, turn right, go to second crossroad, turn right to brick church on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PA. CUMBERLAND CO.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into

East and West, and by Rt. 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington St., four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. #50 and then north one mile.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md., from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses #15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The Church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: From the South on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon Avenue. Church is on the left. Coming from the North on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Route 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles west to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The Church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stoplight, turn right on North Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8 at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

S. FULTON, ILLINOIS

Astoria, Ill., is located on Rt. 24, coming from east or west, turn south at the bank corner marked by the big clock. Two miles south and on the right at top of hill.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SHALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one-half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md. and Hanover, Pa. One-fourth mile east of Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 alternate, three and one-

half miles west of junction of Ohio
Rt. 108 and U.S. Rt. 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA.

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north

of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go
right on Brookside (marked with a
Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan,
left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central
Pennsylvania, about half-way between
Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on
Rt. 40. About six miles south of
Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little
east of Rt. 26. Services second, fourth
and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located southwest of Cuba, New
Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State High-
way 197 in Cuba. Follow Rt. 197 for
19 miles when you will take a
paved road to the left. A mission sign

marks this junction. Proceed 3 miles
to the mission. Present personnel
includes David and Mildred Skiles;
Rudy and Rhoda Shaffer; Paul and
Sarah Skiles; Mary Alice Skiles and
Renita Trujillo. Visitors would be
wise to notify the Mission in advance.
Address: R. 2 Box 8, Cuba, New Mexico
87013; Telephone — 505 - 731-2292.
Please contact for further information.

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Is your subscription renewed?

— Editor

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1925

OFFERING OUR BODIES

T. C. Ecker

"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2.

Paul is here trying to teach service and power in the world. If the so-called Christians of the world of today would come out from the world and be a separate people, so that they could be "known and read of all men," they would have great power in the world for Good. Putting on the Christian uniform under King Emanuel and go forth a valiant soldier of the cross, the enemy would flee as did Germany. Men of worldly organizations are proud of their uniforms, but many professing Christians are ashamed of their uniform. The Master says, "he that is ashamed of me and my words of him will I be ashamed before my Father which is in heaven." "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof." Rom. 13:14.

Paul speaking of prayer to the men said, "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly array, but which becometh women professing godliness with good works." I Tim. 2:9-10. The Apostle draws a line between Christian and non-Christian women "whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of the plaiting of the hair and of wearing of gold or putting on of apparel." I Pet. 3:3.

If only men and women would search the scriptures to know how to adorn the inner man instead of spending so much time and money in fulfilling the lust of the flesh; not regarding the teaching of the word, which teaches plainly that Christians should not wear gold: But the teaching is ignored by the people and pastor as the prophet hath spoken, "like people, like preacher."

James 1:21 speaks of "superfluity" the unnecessary things and preachers tell us the world is getting better with people ignoring the plain teaching of God's Word. The Master said He would not judge the world but the words that He hath spoken should judge every man at the last day. Men tell us "if the heart is right all is right." I say so, too. "If ye be risen with Christ seek those things which are above

where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, set your affections on things above not on things on the earth." Col. 3:1-2.

Teaching us to be like him in heart. As we study nature we study God. As we look at the oak tree, all clothed with an oak bark, reproducing new hearts and new lives in the form that God gave it, we know it as an oak.

Quite a few people think the church has no right to say what its members shall do. We refer you to Matt. 18:18, "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

NEWS ITEMS

1985 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held June 8 through 12, 1985, at the Maranatha Camp Grounds, 13 miles east of North Platte, Nebraska, on Interstate 80.

Send your reservations to:

Bro. Jerry Moss

R. 1 Box 235-B

Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Bro. Don Hostetler

Quinter, Kansas 67752

More details will be given later.

Brother Carl Reed



When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing.



Speed is not everything — it's direction that counts



Two things ruin a church — loose living and tight giving.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

FEBRUARY 15, 1985

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LIVING FOR JESUS

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do,
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Living for Jesus who died in my place,
Bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace,
Such love constrains me to answer His call,
Follow His leading and give Him my all.

Living for Jesus wherever I am,
Doing each duty in His Holy Name,
Willing to suffer affliction or loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross.

Living for Jesus thru earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile,
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

- T. O. Chisholm

DAVID AND JESUS

The Apostle Paul wrote that the Old Testament served as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. The duty of the schoolmaster in Paul's time was to see that the children were at the school so they could learn. The Old Testament brings us to Christ by prophecy, illustration and example. We are shown various facets of Jesus' personality and work through those written of in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament shows many things about Jesus, many centuries before His earthly birth. These are like shadows, not the real thing, but an image of that thing. Isaac, Moses and David are a few of the Old Testament persons who revealed something of Jesus.

Jesus is often called the Son of David. He was descended from David through His earthly lineage. He would have been in line to be King of the Jews, if the Jews could have had their own king. He had standing as a king though His aim was so much nobler. Although descended from David, as the Son of God, He was superior to David. This fact David acknowledged.

There are some interesting parallels between Jesus and the young shepherd David who went forth to face Goliath. David was at the place of battle because he was sent there. Although his brothers weren't very happy about his presence, he had been sent by his father. Jesus likewise was sent by His Father. He came unto His own, as David had, but His own did not receive Him. He identified Himself with them. He lived with them. He had the same bodily form. He had the same physical needs and afflictions. But they did not receive Him any more gladly than David's brothers had received him. They made light of David saying he came just to watch the

THE BIBLE MONITOR**FEBRUARY 15, 1985**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

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battle. Jesus was falsely accused, by the Pharisees, of working by the power of the devil instead of the power of God.

David had gone to see about his brothers' welfare at the behest of his father. Jesus had come because it was His Father's Will. They were both obedient. Their brethren may not have appreciated their presence but they were fulfilling their Father's desire. Although neither was wanted there, each became the central figure of that place. David faced Goliath when all others in the army cowered. Jesus was lifted up on the central cross of Calvary to draw all men unto Him.

David's brother professed concern for the flock of sheep left behind in Bethlehem. But David had seen to their well-being before he left home. He was a good shepherd. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, provided for the well-being of His sheep in His absence. He organized His Church to have shepherds who would care for His sheep.

Jesse sent David to his brethren to carry certain items that they would need. This speaks of our Heavenly Father's care for our temporal and physical needs. He has showered upon us blessings that we have not deserved. We have received these blessings besides the Spiritual blessings. Jesse was also concerned for the captains set above his sons in the army. God caused the rain and sun to fall upon all conditions of men even the unthankful. He shows to us an example of doing good to not only our friends and family but to all mankind, even those not in agreement with our beliefs.

David, unlike his brothers and the rest of the army, was willing to face Goliath. It troubled him that none seemed concerned that the giant was defying the army of the living God. Those who opposed Jesus were opposing God. They were mocking or defying God when they crucified His Son. But Jesus sought their forgiveness.

David did meet Goliath. He prevailed over the giant because of his faith. His little stone hurled by the power of God had greater power than all the armor and weapons of Goliath. Jesus met and overcame the greatest enemy — Satan. Jesus had to meet him and beat him. Although Jesus' method did not seem like man's way, it proved the best because His death, burial and resurrection provides a means for us to have a similar victory. We are all weak and small like David but we each can accomplish what he did, through Jesus.

As we consider the lives of Jesus and David let us be inspired to live as a person after God's own heart so we can accomplish what David did. But we must never forget that without Christ we have no hope.

Would you dare to be a David willing to overcome your Goliath through the help of God.

Rx FOR SUNDAY MORNING MADNESS

A typical Sunday Morning in our lives was formerly rather hectic. First of all, I am annoyed whenever I am late for church. The feelings in my heart when I walk into a church service which has already started are difficult to describe. Words like guilty, ashamed, and remorseful convey some of my feelings. Promptness is a virtue which we all should strive to attain. We should especially make every effort to be at Church on time. How often are we late for work? God's gift of time requires accountability!

Since church didn't begin until 9:30 A.M., there was no point in getting up at the regular week-day time. Sunday should be a day for sleeping later, shouldn't it? We should easily be able to get ready in one hour, so I set the alarm for about 7:50. We needed to leave for church at about 8:55 in order to arrive there a few minutes early and also to avoid the temptation to go over the speed limits. Now this schedule really should have worked, because we get ready for work in less than one hour other mornings of the week. Besides, there was more to be done on week day mornings, such as packing lunch and also preparing a more substantial breakfast than on Sunday Mornings.

The alarm would go off at 7:50. Since we had plenty of time, there was no point in rushing to get out from between the nice, warm covers. We then got ready and had devotions. Also, I liked to go over the final draft of the Sunday School lesson which needed to be taught. About this time our stomachs were sending out "hungry signals." So we ate breakfast, then brushed our teeth, and glanced at the clock. The time would be three minutes before nine. Un-oh, two minutes behind schedule! Oh, well, we would just be at church right on time instead of a little early.

Oops! I had forgotten to make a final check of the coal fire. Things needed to be changed over to the Sunday purse. And — Oh no! I had to go to the bathroom! By the time we got into the car and pulled out of the driveway, it was five after nine. Well, maybe we could still make it! The car clock was a minute or two fast, while the church clock might be a minute or two slow. We should easily be able to make up five minutes on the road!

So off we went on our merry way to church — Zoom! Things went fairly well on the back roads — just hang on around the corners! But when we came to the one and only signal light on our way to church, it had just changed to red! So we lost a full minute till it went through its cycle because the sign says, "No Right on Red." At last we were on our way again. But alas, we quickly came upon a slow moving vehicle. An older man was in absolutely no hurry what-

soever — just enjoying the countryside. By this time I had forgotten what the Sunday School lesson was about. (Glad for my notes!)

Soon we came to a straight stretch in the road and passed the slow car. There were double yellow lines, but we could see far enough ahead to be safe! My heart would begin to beat faster as I got caught up in the stress of driving against the clock. At last we got to church. The clock in the car showed 9:32. If we would quickly park and run for it, maybe we could make it in time for the first song.

Teaching the Sunday School lesson went rough. It also seemed difficult to get into an attitude of worship. It was hard to get much out of the sermons. Church was becoming something we had to do instead of going to worship and praise God!

We came to a point in our lives where we knew something needed to be done about "Sunday Morning Madness." We knew that Satan was hindering our efforts to have an organized, unhurried Sunday Morning. The devil did not want us to arrive at church in a relaxed, worshipful frame of mind. He did not want us to receive good things from God, or to minister to others effectively. Satan wanted us to think about the hymn that was pitched too high or low, or how the minister's shirt collar was out over his suit coat, or about the brother that slept partway through the sermon. We knew that we were fighting Satan. There were two verses which helped us in this area. James 4:7 tells us to, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Also in Ephesians 4:27 we read, "Neither give place to the devil." We were not to yield to any suggestions which the devil may have made! We had to resist the devil by submitting unto God.

We also had to come to a point of accepting responsibility for the use of our time. It's convenient to blame Satan for Sunday Morning Madness, and I believe he does contribute to the problem, but only if we permit him. If we set the alarm a little late, and then did not get up promptly when it did go off, is that really Satan's problem? We had a strong desire to use the maximum amount of time possible for sleeping on Sunday Mornings. However, there are some disturbing words in Proverbs that address this point. "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come..." Proverbs 6:9-11. We learned that we had to accept the responsibility for setting our priorities. For us, we decided that it was more important to get to church on time than it was to get a few extra minutes of sleep.

There are some very practical things which we began doing. One was to see that we got enough sleep Saturday night. Another was to set the alarm clock earlier. Then we had to learn to get up when

it sounded. We also came to an understanding that driving faster than the posted speed limit violated Romans 13:1-7. This portion of scripture states that we are to be subject unto the higher powers because God ordained them. Resisting the power is the same as resisting the ordinance of God. "And they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." When we were going over the speed limit to arrive at church on time, could we have been asking God to have one of His deer jump out on the road in front of us, or cause the right front tire to blow out suddenly?

Since we have been using our time more wisely, Sunday Mornings have been going a lot better. We get up earlier, after a good night's rest. We get ready and have our devotions. Then we do the little routine tasks that need done around the house. We review the Sunday School lesson, then eat breakfast. All this is done in a relaxed, loving atmosphere. There is a special feeling of joy in our hearts as we pull out of the driveway a few minutes before we really would need to be leaving. On the way, we discuss our Sunday School lessons, recite scripture, and sing praises to God. By the time we arrive at church, our hearts are prepared to worship God. Teaching Sunday School became a more joyous experience, with excellent discussion from the class. The sermons became more meaningful. It is now a joy to go to church!

We now can relate to the psalmist who says, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122.1. We trust that sharing this experience will help others find a cure for the "Sunday Morning Madness."

Brother Robert Lehigh



During the Civil War a farmer was drafted. He was much grieved on account of his motherless family, who would have no bread-winner in his absence. The day before he had to start, a young man, a neighbor, came, saying, "I will go instead of you." It seemed too good to be true; but the young fellow went, feeling that he was doing a noble thing, and all the village came out to bid him good-bye. In the first battle he was shot and killed. When the farmer saw the name of Charles Durham in the list of "missing," he at once went to the battlefield, found the body of his friend, brought it to his village and placed it in the little graveyard, covering the grave with sod from his garden. He cut out a plain marble tablet, on which he carved an inscription with his own hand. Then he put the tablet on the grave and when the villagers stopped to see the little monument they wept. It did not say much, but it deeply touched them; it said — "C. D. He died for me."

A MESSAGE OF LOVE

There are times in our lives when we experience great distress, and wonder if God has forgotten about us. At such times, the Lord often sends a special indication of His loving care — a message of love from His heart to ours. It may be very subtle, such as a note of encouragement, a gesture of kindness from a friend, but whatever it is, the Lord sends the message because He knows we need it. We are human with human problems and needs, and one of them is a need for reassurance that we are loved, that God still cares.

God may allow discouragement to come in our lives, but He will send us messages of love to encourage us. He knows we can only bear so much, and will not allow us to be overwhelmed. God will not forsake us. If He did, we couldn't stand the pressure when troubles abound. He may allow us to feel forsaken for awhile, to feel that no one cares, but the fact is, Jesus said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5.

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, found herself in a very troublesome situation before his birth. She wanted a son very much, and her distress was increased by the actions of her husband's other wife. Hannah's husband tried to console her, but could not. After she had prayed from the depths of her being, I believe she was comforted during her talk with Eli. She then went about life as usual, and in due time, her heart's desire was granted. See I Sam. 1:17-18.

Hannah had been greatly grieved, and God looked on her with compassion. He sent her a message of love, the blessing of Eli, to sustain and encourage her while she waited for her request to be granted. Part of Hannah's prayer was that the Lord would not forget her (I Sam. 1:11), and indeed He did not. God will not forget us either, if we are faithful to Him.

In the book of Ruth, we can read about another message of love. Naomi had been deeply grieved by the deaths of her husband and two sons. She decided to return to her home country, and Ruth insisted on going with her mother-in-law. Ruth was really a blessing to Naomi. Later, Ruth became the wife of Boaz, and this was another message of love to Naomi. She was especially blessed by the birth of their first child. A few months before this, she had felt forsaken and empty, but now she was again full and blessed.

Peter had a different problem, but he still needed a message of love. He had denied his Lord, and was in great distress. Matt. 26:75 says "he went out and wept bitterly," no doubt thinking that God had forsaken him because of what he had done. After the resurrection of Christ, the angel told the women to "tell the disciples and Peter." It was like saying, "Be sure to tell Peter, He is grieving and

he needs to know Jesus is alive." Jesus appeared to Peter personally (see Luke 24:34), and this was another message of love. How it must have blessed Peter's heart to know the Lord hadn't disowned him!

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they will not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isa. 43:2. God has promised to be with us and take care of us, whatever the circumstances of our lives. We may not be able to see what we consider to be evidence of His love at all times, but God does love us. When we are in the midst of distress, it often takes special insight to see this, but even though the trouble is still there, we can depend on the blessing of His love.

Jesus loves us when we are in trouble as well as when we're not. When things aren't going well, we may not feel loved, but somewhere along the line, He will send us a message of His love, a special assurance that we are not forgotten. Our circumstances may not improve, but that doesn't mean Jesus has stopped caring. Jesus really does love us alot, and will help us hold on in faith. When we can see this in spite of the mountain of heartaches about us, we have reached a spiritual milestone. Have you looked for a message of love from Jesus today?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Little White Lies"

The world laughs at "little white lies." It also thrives upon them. But do you know what God thinks about "little white lies?" A lie of any kind is a dangerous sin which can break your communication with Him and damage your relations with other people. The Bible tells us of Ananias and Sapphira, a "nice" Jerusalem couple who sold their land and gave the money to the church. Of course that was a generous thing to do, right? There was just one problem... they pretended to give all of the money, when they really gave only part of it. When Ananias told his "little white lie," Peter answered, "You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he dropped dead. His wife later SUPPORTED the same lie and she met the same fate.

You need to look very closely at your life. Do you lie to give false impressions? Do you exaggerate to make people listen to your stories? Do you hint that you are something you are not? Would your comments lead others to think that you have more of "everything" than you really do? Confess these lies to God. Remember that

He loves you the exactly the way you are and it is not necessary to give a false impression to Him or to anyone else.

Never try to justify a "little white lie" by telling another one to cover the first. Just confess them as sin and determine to always tell the truth.

Jesus demands no "ifs," "ands" or "buts" when it comes to honesty. If you are His disciple, there is totally no excuse for a lie. Admit that you have made a deadly, dishonest statement and never make excuses for this sin. If you don't make the admission, God won't forgive you. Confess to Him and make it right with those whom the lie affected.

If you do not repent of a lie, God's Word says you will spend eternity in the fires of hell with Satan and his angels. After all, Satan is the father of lies and "a liar loves company!"

Repentance means turning around and going in the opposite direction. Ask for victory if a lie seems to come easy to you. This will include three things. (1) A deep sense of sinfulness and a realization that a holy God can't look upon sin. (Never take a flip-pant attitude about it). (2) A desire to get rid of the sin badly enough to obey God... to do whatever He says must be done. (3) And, finally, a determination to live your life for Jesus'and not for yourself. That will allow for the complete turn around and change of direction to a life of truthfulness.

"Repent." "lie" and "hell" are all rather unpopular words in the world today. But if you lie and do not repent, hell is your fate. Without repentance, you'll never get back on a solid relationship with God.

You are familiar with the object lesson of tying a person's arms together with a strand of thread. The person easily breaks the thread and escapes to freedom. Winding the thread around three or four times makes it harder to break and finally when many threads are bound around and around the arms they become immovable... paralyzed from productivity. So it is with unconfessed lies. The more you get wrapped up in them, the less ability you have to function in your Christian life and finally they will make you totally unproductive and eventually death will occur.

Don't allow Satan to enslave you to the idea of that "little white lies" are not so bad. Remember, they are binding and deadly.

Brother Leonard Wertz



Two men please God — who serves Him with all his heart because he knows Him; who seeks Him with all his heart because he knows Him not. — Panin.

ACCEPT GOD'S CALL TO DUTY

The duty of those who are called to the ministry of the Gospel of Christ is to preach it to the fullest extent. The failure of Church leaders, to a large extent, has been responsible for the downfall of professing Christendom. Many of us have witnessed a falling away from the faith of the Gospel.

Those called to fulfill the task of preaching the Gospel have failed to throw out the Gospel warning against the evil ways of life. Also we are living in the time when many will not endure sound doctrine and have heaped to themselves teachers, having itching ears. Many have turned their ears away from the truth and turned unto fables. Ministers who are true and faithful to God's calling will not shun to declare the whole Council of God to dying humanity. When the great commission was given by Christ, our Savior, to His followers they were ordered to preach the whole Gospel. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Woe unto them that pervert and preach not the Gospel of Christ.

We have heard ministers who have used foolish jokes and stories and false, evil reports as part of their sermons. The foolishness of man perverts the way of the righteous. The spreading of false, evil reports is a hindrance to truth and righteousness.

There is a great reward awaiting the faithful and true ministers of the saving Gospel of Christ and that follow the way Christ has exemplified and become a blessed example to others.

Ministers and all of us need the knowledge to know the difference between good and evil. The saving Gospel of Christ gives to us the knowledge to be faithful and true to God's call. Woe unto them that call evil, good and good, evil and put light for darkness and darkness for light.

In the time of the Apostles, many suffered severe hardships for being faithful and true to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul through his struggles and hardships endured faithful and looked forward to the crown of righteousness at the end of life's pathway.

It is sad to know that sometimes professing Christians become hinderances and stumbling blocks to others. True Christians will not hinder others from being faithful and true to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Praise and honor for righteousness is a command of God. Have we made Christ our pattern or are we following the evil ways under

the cloak of religion? We should be thankful for the faithful and true and appreciate their works of righteousness and labors for the upbuilding of God's kingdom here on earth. Many times the way of truth is evil spoken of. Our trials here will only make us richer there.

Those who believe that we can have salvation without obedience to the saving Gospel need repentance and confession. We cannot serve two masters. True Christians will not oppose or hinder others from being faithful and true. Faithful servants are determined. Through God's Holy Commandments we should go forward and never give up.

Paul said he was free from the blood of all men. Christ set a perfect example and said we shall do as He has done. Sin has its reward. If the blind lead the blind both will fall into the ditch. We should be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord so much the more as we know our labor is not in vain. We need the whole armor of God to stand against the wiles of the devil in this sinful and wicked generation. Have we accepted God's call to duty?

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SATURDAY, THE JEWISH SABBATH, OR, SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY, WHICH?

William Root

We come now to the second division of the above subject, which is, "Sunday, the Lord's Day." The day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week (Sunday), is the day on which the Apostolic fathers met for breaking "Bread" and Christian service. Christ the divine lawgiver was to make a day, and that day was declared by David to be a day of rejoicing and gladness. Psalms 118:19-24, "Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord: This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter, I will praise thee; for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Let us analyze these verses. First David speaks about going into open gates of righteousness to praise the Lord. He points out that, "This gate" of praise is the gate, "into which the righteous shall enter," a place of worship. Second he speaks of the rejected "stone," rejected by the builders. There can be no doubt that Christ was to be the rejected Stone, rejected by Israel, and who was to be the

"head stone of the corner," see Matt. 21:41-42. How did Christ become the head stone of the corner? The master stroke, the crowning event of His life was His resurrection. During His natural life, He alludes to it again and again. After His resurrection His great efforts and aims were, to prove to His disciples that He was their risen Lord. This resurrection was a prominent point in Peter's effort on Pentecost. It was the resurrection that got Peter and John into trouble, recorded in Acts 4. It was the resurrection for which Paul was called in question. The Jews rejected Christ; they rejected the resurrection, and as a result, they rejected the day kept in memory of the event. We firmly believe that this rejected day, the Lord's day, is the day "which the Lord hath made." "We will rejoice in it and be glad." "We", that is Christians, not Jews, who rejected Christ.

The passage we have quoted from the Psalms encourages our hearts. "It is marvellous in our eyes." We ask is it not marvellous that all, in every age, clime and country, who recognize Christ as their atoning, resurrected Saviour, look upon His resurrection as the crowning work of our redemption? This is the hope of our inheritance to a never ending eternity. Peter has expressed it thus, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," I Pet. 1:3. Associated with the event is the day. David says, "The Lord shall make a day," a "new day." Christ has done so, of which the united testimony and experience of the Christian world gave evidence. We call upon Sabbatarians themselves, Is it not the event of the resurrection, and hence the day, a day of rejoicing? To this inquiry they are compelled to give their assent.

Let us note: the superiority of the new covenant over the old. Heb. 4:9-10, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." This again shows the superiority of the New covenant over the Old, for under the Old their Sabbath was their rest day, while under the New Sunday is a day for Spiritual work, and the Christians' rest comes when they receive that rest after they have ceased their work, as God ceased from His. The Revised Version gives it, "There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God: For he that is entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works, as God did from his."

The order in which God entered into His rest in creation was: "On the seventh day God ended his work... and he rested on the seventh day." Here in the Hebrews "He" in verse 10, refers to Christ for its antecedent therefore He, that is Christ has entered into His rest as God did. How true, how striking is the parallel! Christ rose from

the dead, the finishing stroke of redemption, on the first day of the week, and entered into His rest which is not the rest of a day but an eternal rest. After this event with Christ there were no more trials, no more assaults from Satan. His efforts were to strengthen, encourage, and thus fit His chosen for the assault they were about to make on Satan's ranks. With the foregoing view the analogy between the two rests, God at the close of creation and Christ at the close of His work of redemption, is very striking.

We quote the comment of Dr. Patterson of Glasgow, Scotland. After quoting the tenth verse the doctor says: "Certain interpreters refer this to Jesus Christ, and associating it with the statement in verse 9, literally, a sabbatism, consider the passage as a testimony to the sabbatic character of the first day of the week." We have in the New Testament Scriptures the following phrases: "Lord's table," "Lord's Supper" and "Lord's day." As to the first all agreed, even Sabbatarians, that Christ instituted the table spoken of, and hence is the Lord of that table. We can readily secure the same admission as to the authorship and meaning of the Lord's day? Instead of this admission they quote Rev. 1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day," as referring to the seventh day. The seventh day was never called "the Lord's day," but "the sabbath of the Lord thy God." We repeat, associated with the event is the day, hence under the Gospel, the first day of the week, the resurrection day, is the day that Christ the Lord hath made; in which, just as in a mother's love, by natural response, we rejoice in it and are glad.

Christ's first meeting with His disciples, after the resurrection, was on the first day of the week. In John 20:19, it is said, "the disciples had met, for fear of the Jews, and hence it was not a religious meeting." There was much that the disciples did not understand, and they may not have previously understood the interesting character of this first meeting. But Christ meeting with them as He did rendered it a religious meeting of a most important character. It was the dawn of light through dark and dreary clouds. At this first meeting they inhaled the sweet influence of the Holy Ghost. John 20:26, "And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace be unto you." When the Jews counted the Sabbath both at the beginning and end of the week, the week consisted of eight days; when the Sabbaths were omitted, the week consisted of six days. Lev. 23:39, "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath."

To be continued

Selected by Joseph Lavy

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1925

EARNESTLY CONTENT FOR THE FAITH

J. H. Beer

Those who expect man's schemes to cure the world's ills, surely do not know what the conditions are. Theocracy is what the world needs, and not Democracy. The one who is prophesied to bear rule over the world with its failures, is the only one who ever walked this earth sinless. He is himself the truth and the wisdom of God incarnate. It is prophesied that the government shall be upon his shoulders. Christ has made us the promise of righteous government when he takes the throne.

The enemies who have challenged God and his divine plan through the centuries, from Eden and pursuing his purpose with unwavering persistence, hinder the Son of God from winning the headship of his Father's world, and if possible prevent the completion of redemption in the lives of his followers.

"God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." Gal. 1:10. I have tried to analyze an article I read recently entitled "The Church of Tomorrow", and I am convinced that there are many in the church who have become intoxicated and drunken on this modern leadership and new method of interpretation of God's word, and are seeking to please men rather than God. "For do I now persuade men or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men I should not be the servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10.

This so-called new method of interpretation that has taken hold of some of our leaders of today is no new thing, both Christ and his disciples have warned us regarding this spirit method of interpretation. When Paul was contrasting the difference between the law and the gospel, when he said the "letter killeth", he had reference to the law, and not to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "my word then is spirit, and they are life.." The law represents death. The gospel represents life. The Brethren in the past have held to the literal interpretation of the gospel, unless the writer made a spiritual application (as in John 7:38, but this spake he of the spirit.) But when the apostle said, "Greet one another with a Holy Kiss" he meant a literal salutation. The present so-called new method of interpretation would set aside its literal observance, and substitute the hand shake or the "hello" to keep the spiritual interpretation.

Jesus said, "Ye also ought to wash one another's feet", I believe he had reference to the literal observance of washing feet. What

right has any man to change or substitute or spiritualize the word of Christ to the destruction of the literal observance of his word?

Does the word of God give any guarantee that such a course would meet his approval?

Jesus commanded his disciples to "go and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." He has reference to the observance of the literal mode of Christian baptism.

Do you think Paul said, "the letter killeth" that he meant to teach men to place a spiritual interpretation on baptism? or for that matter on any other obligation demanding obedience on the part of men, do you? Acts 2:28, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Oh, God, send deliverance to thy people, for "evil men have crept in unawares who were foreordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only God that bought them."

NEWS ITEM

THANKS

I wish to thank all the Brethren and Sisters and friends for your cards, gifts, visits and prayers during my recent hospitalization and recuperation at home. We can only thank you; but, may the Lord richly bless each one of you.

Sister Grace Blocher

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Lord willing, the McClave, Colorado Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church will hold their spring Lovefeast on March 30 and 31, 1985. Services will start at 11:00 Saturday morning, with Lovefeast at 7:00 that evening.

We wish to invite all who can to come share these meetings with us. If you can not attend, please remember us in prayer.

"I was glad when they said unto us, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MARCH 1985

ON MAN

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:26

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Fri. 1 - Gen. 1:1-23

Sat. 2 - Gen. 2:1-25

Memory Verse: Genesis 2:7

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Sun. 3 - Gen. 3:1-24

Mon. 4 - Gen. 4:1-26

Tues. 5 - Gen. 5:1-32

Wed. 6 - Gen. 6:1-22

Thurs. 7 - Gen. 7:1-24

Fri. 8 - Gen. 8:1-22

Sat. 9 - Gen. 9:1-29

Memory Verse: Genesis 2:23

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Sun. 10 - Gen. 13:1-18

Mon. 11 - Gen. 16:1-16

Tues. 12 - Gen. 17:1-27

Wed. 13 - Gen. 18:1-33

Thurs. 14 - Gen. 19:1-38

Fri. 15 - Gen. 20:1-18

Sat. 16 - Gen. 24:1-24

Memory Verse: Genesis 8:21

"And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake;

for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done."

Sun. 17 - Gen. 24:43-67

Mon. 18 - Gen. 25:1-34

Tues. 19 - Gen. 29:1-22

Wed. 20 - Gen. 32:1-32

Thurs. 21 - Gen. 37:1-36

Fri. 22 - Gen. 41:25-57

Sat. 23 - Gen. 44:1-34

Memory Verse: Genesis 41:33

"Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt."

Sun. 24 - Gen. 45:1-23

Mon. 25 - Gen. 49:1-33

Tues. 26 - Exod. 2:1-25

Wed. 27 - Exod. 4:1-31

Thurs. 28 - Exod. 16:1-36

Fri. 29 - Exod. 21:1-36

Sat. 30 - Exod. 22:1-31

Memory Verse: Exodus 30:12

"When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the Lord, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them."

Sun. 31 - Exod. 23:1-23

Memory Verse: Exodus 32:1

"And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII MARCH 1, 1985 NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ALL PRAISE TO OUR REDEEMING LORD

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
Who joins us by his grace,
And bids us, each to each restored,
Together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope,
We hand in hand go on.

The kiss of peace to each we give —
A pledge of Christian love;
In love, while here on earth, we'll live,
In love we'll dwell above.

Love is the golden chain that binds
Believers all in one;
And he's an heir of heav'n that finds
His bosom glow with love.

- Charles Wesley

OUR JOURNEY

We live today in a world of many conveniences. Amongst our modern conveniences is our various means of swift and easy transportation. Whatever mode of travel is chosen it can be accomplished in a very short time when compared to just a few decades ago and especially when compared with a century ago. Automobiles, trains and planes can move people quickly to all parts of the country and even around the world. Surely these modern means of travel should make travel and visiting easier and more frequent among the Brethren.

Ironically, it seems as conveniences have multiplied and made travel easier, the Brethren seemingly go less to visit. While General Conference may have more in attendance than in former decades, do the regular meetings, revival meetings and Lovefeast meetings of the average Congregation benefit from these modern conveniences?

The Brethren have always been a people to travel amongst their various congregations especially for special meetings. Just being Brethren made them desire to be with those of like precious faith at other places. At the time of the Brethren's organization in Europe, they traveled much, usually by foot, and sometimes to flee persecution. Even with the poor conditions of the ships of that day, most of the Brethren left Europe for America at an early time. Alexander Mack had traveled and preached in Europe and later he traveled amongst the early Brethren settlements in the New World. It was by a journey undertaken by several of the Brethren in 1723 that led to the first organization of the Brethren in America at Germantown. Soon other congregations were organized in more outlying areas. As more Brethren came from Europe or were converted from those already present and as the horizons of the New

THE BIBLE MONITOR**MARCH 1, 1985**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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World expanded, they were soon scattered over a large area in the Middle Atlantic colonies.

It is amazing in looking back to see how these Brethren had spread out, yet had remained in communication with each other. There must have been a fair amount of traveling especially by the ministers. Alexander Mack, Jr., even when elderly traveled beyond his local area.

As roads, canals and railroads became established, the Brethren used them to journey to visit, encourage and preach. Some of the Brethren became famous for their travels. John Kline traveled thousands of miles, mostly on horseback, through the Upper South, the Middle States and the Old Northwest. Jacob Berkey lost his life doing his duty in journeying through a swollen stream in Texas. D. L. Miller did not limit his travels to this country but the world became his circuit. There were others who were not so notable nor traveled so extensively but who in their limited sphere continued to travel to preach and fellowship. This traveling was not the exclusive privilege of the ministers for the private members also traveled especially for Lovefeasts and Annual Meetings.

With the modern means of transportation available to the Brethren it would be expected that they would be traveling even more than their foreparents. But it is to be doubted whether they travel as much to attend services at a distance. Why should this ironic situation be so? There are many factors that limit the journeys of the Brethren today. Today the Brethren are not farmers as in earlier day. Although they still live in rural or small town areas they now work for other people. Now employers tell them when they can take how much time off. There are many expenses associated with the upkeep of modern vehicles. The upkeep on an automobile and extra expense of making an extended journey keep some from the journey. The distance between many congregations, especially in the West, is so great that it is not a journey of an hour or two but of a day or two. Many when they do decide to travel it is to have a vacation. During these vacations, they may go to the seashore, the mountains or the deserts but they do not travel primarily to visit with the Brethren in other localities.

The answer to this problem does not lie in General Conference queries but within the hearts of the Brethren. It is a matter of priorities to be chosen by those who can travel. The expense of traveling may be lessened by several joining together to travel by van, bus, train or plane.

Our ancestors in a far harder day were able to travel to encourage one another in their isolated condition. We today in a more modern day of convenient transportation should be able to do as well as they did. As we travel life's journey we should be more interested in traveling the road to one another's homes and congregations.

ALMOST

A couple of years ago, following General Conference, it came time to return home. On the way to the airport, we were held up by traffic congestion in a construction area. It was a lengthy delay, and even though we had allowed plenty of time (we thought), we hadn't planned for such a delay. We should have already been on the plane at the time we entered the airport.

With the help of an airport employee, we were allowed to board at the last minute. When we arrived in Toledo, our luggage was here also, a miracle, I think, under the circumstances. Later, we learned how much so. A passenger who followed us through inspections and so forth, was not allowed to board. The door of the plane was closed after we entered, and he was left behind.

Can you imagine the distress of this man who had almost made it? He had paid his fare just as we had, and he was there, but not soon enough. In reality, he wasn't ready, and almost wasn't good enough. He was almost ready, almost on time, and almost on the plane. He no doubt was upset, but that didn't change anything. All he could do was face the facts, and make other arrangements.

As Christians, being almost ready will not suffice. Neither can we make other arrangements for our salvation. Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Acts 26:28. "Almost" — but not quite. "Almost" — but there is too much to give up. "Almost" — but still slightly short of the goal. "Almost" always misses the mark, and even though Agrippa believed, he didn't have saving faith. Prov. 3:5 says "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart", not just with most of it.

"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart." II Chron. 25:2. Amaziah started out right, but later became involved in idol worship. He did do some things right, but doing almost all of God's will wasn't enough. He eventually turned away from God entirely. He was almost on the right track, but God expects whole-hearted service all through life, not just part of the time.

"Almost" doesn't see the urgency in a situation, the need for prompt action. "Almost" represents a partially-convinced state of mind, or one unable to act on a known fact. Lot knew he needed to get out of Sodom, but he and his family had to be led out. The angel warned him again (at the edge of the city) to escape for his life, but Lot argued with him! He still wasn't convinced that he must obey or die. See Gen. 19:15-22.

Felix said, "When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Acts 24:25. As far as we know, he never had a convenient season.

Felix was almost convinced, but not quite. He was convinced to the point that he was afraid and he trembled, but that wasn't enough. Simply stated, Felix knew, but did not do. The knowledge he had didn't save him, and knowledge of Christ won't save us either. We must act on what we know is right.

Jesus said, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24. They were working on it, they were trying, and they almost made it. Isn't that good enough? No! There was something wrong in their lives, and that something would keep them from reaching their goal of Eternal life.

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." Matt. 25:10. The five foolish virgins were almost ready, but they missed out. Jesus said, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matt. 25:13. In other words, be completely ready, not just almost, because the time will come when it's too late to get ready.

There is no consolation in knowing that you almost made it onto the elevator, or the plane or the train. When you need to be somewhere, and you see a door close in front of you at the moment you get there, it can be very distressing. If you will have another opportunity, missing a connection merely throws you off schedule, but what if that were your last opportunity? Jesus will call us out of this life sometime, and there will be no more opportunities to prepare for Eternity. Take time now to get completely ready, not just almost!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

GOD'S SON

John 3:16, is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible in Christendom today because if we believe on the only begotten son of God we can have everlasting life and this eternal life is in His Son.

There are some people today who say Jesus Christ is God the Father. If that would be so, how could he be His Son, if He is the Father?

At Jesus' baptism God said, "this is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Again on the mount of Transfiguration God said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him." The angel said to Mary, "thou shalt bear a son and he shall be called the Son of God." Good reasoning tells us "to be begotten" you have to have a "begetter," just as in Genesis it says Adam beget Seth and so on.

In the Lord's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed, He said, "the hour is come, glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee."

God told Moses that no man can see my face and live again. John 1:18. No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. When we were baptized we were asked the question, "Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and brought from Heaven the saving Gospel?" Then we were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, being immersed in each name, one at a time. Then when the yearly visit comes around to us we say when they ask, "Are you of the same mind as when you were received in the Church by baptism?" We said yes, or we wouldn't be in a condition to commune. So why say Jesus is God, when we said we believed Jesus is the Son of God when we came into the Church? We have to hold to what we said if we want to be honest. In Rev. 3:14b, "... these things say the amen, the faithful true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. So that makes it clear that the faithful and true witness means Jesus is the Son of God. That shows that God created His Son before anyone was created and John was to write by God and His angel to show His servants so we could understand these which were from the beginning of creation. We have to study the Bible and harmonize the Scriptures and not have it contradict itself like some claim it does. Nobody can be the Father and Son at the same time in the flesh. The only way that can be, is in the Spirit, where the Apostle Paul says, "Let this mind be in you that is in Christ." So God's Spirit was in His Son, so that is why Jesus said you see me, you see the father through His Son. I Cor. 11 says the head of Christ is God. John 14:28, my father is greater than I am. We have people trying to tell some that are not well read in the Bible that they are equal in power. If that would be the case, how come the Father only knows when He will send Jesus to come and take His Saints to Heaven? The Son doesn't know when He is coming, so that makes the Father knowing more.

I know it is hard to understand like the Apostle Peter says "they that are unlearned and unstable wrest as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." I John 22. "Who is a liar but he that denieth Jesus is the Christ? He is an antichrist that denieth Father and the Son." We don't want to be an antichrist so let's comply with our answer when we said, "yes", at our baptism.

Paul Fridley,
RD #1, Lewisburg, Ohio

Editor's Note

This article is printed with the understanding that the writer is not denying the Trinity but merely emphasizing the uniqueness of each Person of the Trinity.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1925

OUR SPIRITUAL VOYAGE

R. R. Shroyer

Paul the apostle to the Gentiles was a prisoner and on a sea voyage to Italy, Rome. His course lay right amidst enemies, and fearful dangers. He looked to God for help and mercy, and deliverance came. True, the ship was wrecked and the cargo lost, but by rich grace and timely wisdom Paul and the whole company were saved. All stuck to the ship, until by God's decree they could all safely leave. We are all voyagers on the sea of TIME, to another world; yea to eternity. Yes, soon, very soon, we shall make the haven of eternal rest, and dwell in the mansions of bliss, or be wrecked on the breakers of eternal death.

Surely all should embark on the good ship Zion. Let us look at the characteristics of OUR SHIP and CREW. Our ship is the ark of the living God. Like Noah's ark, she is costly, strong, ample and sea worthy. She is destined to outride the storms of time, and carry her company WITHOUT LOSS into THE PORT OF HEAVEN.

Christ is our pilot, the captain of our salvation. Our crew and company are the elect, the chosen of God in Christ, through faith in his word. These are enrolled passengers for the heavenly land. All is safe. Our expectations are sure. Our FATHER is at the helm. Our sails, our engines, are the CHRISTIAN graces, growing, spreading wafting us on. So we make divine progress, and great gain.

The good sea Samaritan is our physician, giving us gospel medicine setting all parts right, cutting off all dead members, and curing broken hearted souls. OBEDIENCE to God and good will to men are our rations, raiment, meat and drink.

Our clearance is from the city of destruction. Great difficulties obstructed, our departure at first from sin, and satan. Our course is well surveyed and very direct, marked out by the Bible map. Our course of direction is straight to the city of God, the New Jerusalem. Love is our lookout and boatswain throwing out the cables of love on every hand. Hope, lively hope, is our sure anchor, being cast within the vail where Jesus our Savior is making us all safe, on our pilgrimage to the heavenly canaan.

Our compass is an enlightened conscience, regulated by the Holy Spirit and led into all truth.

Our chart by which we sail is the pure infallible word of God. The Bible is alone our sacred map, it comprehends the revealed will of God. Our inspector is the judge of all men, who knows our thoughts,

words and deeds. Our banner, the good news. Our company the best, the bride of the lamb.

Our motto is "Seek first the kingdom of God." Our watchword is "stand up for Jesus the captain of our salvation." Our fare is full but free. Our provisions are ample. Our light, the Son of righteousness. Our voyage is almost completed. Our reckoning tell us our end is near, oh, home sweet home! Yes, soon we shall enter the city not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Jesus will reward us, crown us, and glorify us with himself forever.

SATURDAY, THE JEWISH SABBATH, OR, SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY, WHICH?

William Root

Also compare Mark 9:2 with Luke 9:28. In the text above John counts both sabbaths; hence the week consisted of eight days. After that Christ had finished His work, at the cross and His resurrection, His stay here in this world was short. That period was important, the gathering of His few scattered, discouraged disciples, conversing with them, He sought to comfort them. "He shewed them His hands and His side," spared no pains to convince them that He was their risen Lord; told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. That noted and glorious event, Pentecost day, Acts 2, was on the first day of the week, the day Christ had made. This is so plain that it needs no proof. The record of Pentecost stands thus: "Ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete; even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days." Lev. 23:15-16. It is clear that the "day after the seventh sabbath" would fall on the first day of the week. Therefore Pentecost, meaning the fiftieth, was on the first day of the week.

The text quoted above speaks of the "wave offering," which was the presentation of the first sheaf of Israel's barley harvest. Christ was the barley sheaf that year, "being the first fruits of them that slept." This was fulfilled in Christ's resurrection, which was on the first day of the week. Fifty days after was the feast of the first-fruits of the wheat harvest, the Pentecostal feast. Commentators and lexicographers are numerous who affirm that Pentecost was on the first day of the week. Paul made a visit to the church at Troas; while there held a Communion service, recorded as follows: "Upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread..." As this language stands it indicates that it was common for the disciples to meet on this the first day of the week. It

indicates that the occasion was understood by all, that it was nothing new or strange.

Also I Cor. 16:1-2, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." There are several points of interest in this text: (a) The apostle defines a work to be done for the Lord. (b) The time is named in which this work shall be done; "upon the first day of the week." (c) This same direction, the apostle says, he gave "to the churches of Galatia," besides in I Cor. 1:2, he addresses this letter to "all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord." Hence this order in general for the entire Christian Church; being done by inspiration, it is of the Lord. See I Cor. 14:37. One William Burkitt, M.A. comments on this text as follows: "Upon the first day of the week, which was the day of their public assemblies, the day upon which our Lord rose from the dead." Dr. Barends says on this text, "There can have been no good reason why this day should have been designated, except that it was a day set apart to religion." St. John, the Seer, while on Patmos, says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Rev. 1:10. There Christ engaged a special manifestation of Himself to the sainted exile on that, the Lord's day, the resurrection day, the day the Lord hath made. Therefore we may safely include that it was a meeting, a glorious meeting.

In our conclusion of this proposition, we give to the reader some of the criticisms of Sabbatarians, in the form of questions and answers. 1. "The very first thing recorded in the Bible is work done on Sunday, done by the Creator Himself." Reply — Man was created on the sixth day; hence Adam's first working day was God's seventh. If Adam kept the Sabbath law, "Six days shall work be done," then Adam worked on the seventh day, Saturday. Note: "Origin of the Sabbath," by T. H. Wagoner, he says, "Rest implies work performed. Hence work first, rest second." 2. "The word Sunday does not occur in the Bible." Reply — The word "ceremonial," so frequently used by the Sabbatarians, does not occur in the Bible. 3. "The first day of the week is only found eight times in the New Testament." Reply — The formula for administering Christian baptism, used by Sabbatarians, only occurs once. 4. "The first day of the week is never called a rest day." Reply — This is a dispensation of work, and not of rest. Our rest is in the future. "Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest." Our reward will be for our work and not for our rest. 5. "God commanded men to work on the first day; is it wrong to obey God?" Reply — Not wrong to obey God's law when it is living, "but we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we

were held." "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him." 6. "Christ never blessed the first day." Reply — By virtue of Christ's resurrection on the first day, he greatly blessed that day. It is the crowning blessing of the Gospel. "It is marvellous in our eyes." 7. "Christ never observed Sunday as the Sabbath." Reply — During Christ's natural life, the seventh day was a legal day of rest. After Christ's resurrection he did keep the first day as a day of religious service. 8. "The apostles never kept Sunday." Reply — Like their Master, they kept the first day of the week; not as a rest day, but as a day of divine service. 9. "The first day of the week is never called Lord's day." Reply — "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Here John means the first day of the week, the resurrection day, "the day the Lord hath made." The Sabbath is never called Lord's day in all Holy Writ, but "the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." 10. "Christ never taught the observance of Sunday." Reply — Christ and His disciples did teach the first day by example. The sacredness of the first day is responsive, peculiarly as a mother's love. Not a sacred writer taught the ancient Sabbath after the resurrection. The apostles never made an appointment on the Sabbath. 11. "Christ kept the Sabbath." Reply — Christ not only kept the Sabbath but all the ceremonies of Jewish law. He did not come to break the law but to fulfill. 12. "The disciples rested according to the commandment after Christ's death." Reply — Christ had not yet made His day. 13. "Why did God place the sabbath in the heart of His moral law if it is not like the other nine precepts, which all admit are immutable?" Reply — Where is the proof that Decalogue is a moral law? 14. "Matthew, Mark and Luke, who wrote after the resurrection, spoke familiarly of the Sabbath as an existing institution." Reply — Many of the Jewish rites existed in the days of the apostles and still exist, because of Judaizing teachers, such as Sabbatarians of today. Paul talks of "the days of unleavened bread." Do Sabbatarians keep those? 15. "The Bible never calls the seventh day Jewish sabbath, but always the sabbath of the Lord thy God." Reply — Lev. 26:35 says, "your sabbaths"; Lam. 1:7, Hosea 2:11, "her sabbaths"; Exod. 31:13, "my sabbaths." How readest thou?

Selected by Joseph Lavy



In all thine actions think that God sees thee, and in all his actions labor to see him. That will make thee fear him, and this will move thee to love him. The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, and the knowledge of God is the perfection of love. — Quarles.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"The Cults are coming..."

If a cult member has not yet been to your door to give you his satanic message and possibly some literature then he will probably be there soon. As Bible believing Christians, we must learn to give convincing Bible answers to cultists when they come to our door. We must be able to give answers for our own faith as well as counter the challenges which the cults will present to us. The Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormoms are growing by leaps and bounds because people can't refute their seemingly logical answers to the Bible's interpretation.

In reality, people fall for their lines because they have personal needs that are not being met in traditional churches. These people think that the cult will meet their needs. And they will appear to do that for a while, but because they are counterfeits of the true gospel, they will ultimately leave them unfulfilled and empty. As Christians we have all been commissioned to bring the good news of salvation through Jesus to others. (Matt. 28:19) It is our responsibility to witness to them when they come to our door or approach us on the street.

The counterfeit truths of the cults are very much like the water that was spoken of by Jesus in John 4... it satisfies the body, but only for a short time. The thirst will soon return. But you have the privilege and obligation to be a vessel to these misguided souls as you offer them true spiritual water.

Cult members will always claim to be Christian and Biblical or they will indicate they are compatible with Christianity. But why do they even exist today? What is their motivation? May we remember that the New Testament Church was very different from the typical church in the United States today. Because of so much persecution at that time, they had only each other for support at the human level and thus their commitment to Christ was to be very real. Because of hate for them, they had to seriously consider their allegiance to Christ in all aspects of their lives. They were a close-knit community of believers, bound together by a common hope and common faith.

Today the modern church has become little more than a social institution, providing its members with entertainment and a selected peer group. They do not take up the mandate of the conservative church or the New Testament church but have regressed and failed to promote solid Biblical theology.

If we are going to have something to witness to the cults about, we are going to have to work hard to keep several things out of the

church. The first is liberalism. Because we live in a humanistic society, values are set on what the loose society dictates. The goal becomes one of survival in a sophisticated, godless environment. Man's opinions become as important as those of God and everyone wants to "fit in." Reliable spiritual guidance and the absolute standards for conduct, morality, beliefs and life have fled.

Secondly, worldly issues as a part of the church must be put in God's perspective. We must be strongly committed to the Bible as the authentic Word of God and refuse to compromise with secular values. We must contend for the faith (Jude 3) nearly to the point of isolating ourselves from the unbelieving world. We must, within our community of believers, be able to reach out to the emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of our members and live the separated life. If we don't, the cultist at your door WILL seem to have the answers.

We must keep ignorance of the content of the Word from becoming the standard of our body. If we are unlearned and unsophisticated in Biblical interpretation, we will fall prey to the cult's sinister interpretations.

We also must keep the "world view" from becoming the "churches view." This can only be done as long as there is a strong cohesiveness between us. We must view life from a consistent, unified, Biblical point of reference. Without thoughts and actions being based on this view, we will become susceptible to the cult message and get ensnared by it.

The conservative church MUST meet our people's needs and must be able to reach out and meet the needs of those in the lost world. Cults are saying, "See, see what a mess the Christian church has gotten the world in today!" They go on to show how they are capable of being the remedy to this situation. Certainly, if we were not a part of the family of God, we would think the problems of global proportion were impossible. The unbeliever will see them as such. We must be able to show people absolutes and the certainties of our experience. We must communicate the ultimate truth and be able to guarantee the right kind of Christ centered worship. We must show them something different on which they can base their lives experience?

As we build healthy and enthusiastic Christians in our Body, we will become more and more impervious to Satan's lure back to the world. You must have personal motivation to grow in the Faith. With a bright and living relationship with Jesus and with a growing desire to study the Word, you can approach the cults with brevity and confidence.

Brother Leonard Wertz

SALVATION

Salvation is a free gift. By this free gift we become a member of the body of Christ and His Church. It comes to each of us without cost. The Bible says: "Whosoever will may come." Our citizenship is that. Naturalization a process of Christian Baptism. Spiritual life cannot be bought because it is free. But you must be willing to accept it.

In the natural life you can not have citizenship in two countries. In the same way, we cannot serve two masters. We either must love one and hate the other. Matt. 6:24. It is impossible to serve Christ and the Devil at one time, neither can we serve the Beloved Church and the world at the same time.

Did you ever try to mix water and oil? I am sure you found they don't mix. The true Church, Christ has established. His Church cannot mix with Satan. We become citizens of the Church of Christ when we truly step out from the world, having our minds and our hearts on the things of Christ. There is no harmony between Christ and Satan.

The devil tried to tempt Christ but when he failed he left. If we stand on the solid rock, which is Christ Jesus, we will if he tries to tempt us. I often think of the many who traveled from Egypt but only two reached the Promised Land. Just think of the many who were on the way. We are told only a remnant will be saved.

Let us sow seed for the Kingdom of Heaven so we can be among the faithful. In Revelation we read, "But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murders, and whoremongers and liars and so forth shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone." Oh, what a punishment! I am sure none of us would want to go through this. So let us serve the Christ of Galilee.

Sister E. M. Alltus

OBITUARIES

ROSA MAY

Sister Rosa May, 77, departed this life October 23, 1984 in the Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Virginia after a one week stay. She had been failing in health about a year.

Sister Rosa was born in the Fulks Run, Virginia area December 29, 1906. Her parents were Eli and Mary Carr. Preceding her in death were two brothers, Noah Carr, husband of Marjorie Carr and Edd Carr. Surviving are two brothers Eli Robert and John H. Carr of Fulks Run, Virginia and one sister Anna See of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

She was brought up in the Brethren faith in Fulks Run, Virginia.

She was married to Bro. Joe May, December 31, 1947 by Elder David Ebling in his home. They joined the Dunkard Brethren Church at Frystown, Pennsylvania in 1965.

She was a faithful church member and always interested in the work there.

Sister Rosa and Brother Joe were close companions working side by side. They sold a farm in 1967 at Frystown, Pennsylvania after which they built three homes in the same area before moving to a new home in Virginia in 1981. There they worked together till its completion in 1983.

Funeral services were held at the Mountain Grove Church of the Brethren at Fulks Run, Virginia by Brother David Ebling and Brother Eugene Kauffman assisting. Burial was in the Mountain Grove Church Cemetery.

The family wishes to take this method to thank the Ministers, Brethren, Sisters, friends and neighbors for their many prayers and much help before, during and after Sister Rosa's death.

Brother Joe May

OLA FERN STOUT

Sister Ola Fern Stout, 90 years of age, departed this life at her home at Wabash, Indiana on Tuesday, January 15, 1985.

She had been a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church since 1939. She had been in failing health for over a year.

She was born June 4, 1894 in Miami County, to Daniel Peter Nead and Ella Jane (Givler) Nead. She was the great-granddaughter of Peter Nead, well known Elder in the Dunkard Church. She was married December 31, 1916 in Cass County to Walter E. Stout. He died April 20, 1972. Sis. Fern (as many folks called her) had lived in the Wabash area since 1943. Surviving are five sons and two daughters, Owen, Lavere, Paul, Raymond, and Este; Orpha Moyer and Wilma Smith. One son, Chelsia, is deceased.

She also left to mourn her departure, twenty grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren, plus many friends and relatives. Sis. Fern was the last survivor of four children. The church will miss her presence at the regular services, but our loss is her gain.

Services were held at 2:00 P.M. Friday, January 18, 1985 with Elder Harley Rush and Elder Robert Carpenter officiating. Burial was in the Springdale Cemetery, west of Bunker Hill, Indiana.

SAINTS WILL RISE

Our loved one now has left
To be at peace with Christ
And soon will be claiming
Her eternal reward.

What a precious promise....
Christ will come in the skies
For saints that lived for Him
They, from graves will arise.
To meet their Redeemer
(And angels, with Him too),
Then living saints will rise
To go beyond the blue....
Up to their mansion above
In that City foursquare,
No more pain or sorrow -
All is peace over there.

For the Christian, death means Glory -
The Family

NEWS ITEMS**PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO**

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to hold their Revival Meetings March 17 through March 31, with Bro. Allen Eberly as our evangelist.

The meeting will close with communion services. Services on Saturday, March 30, at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. and the Lovefeast Saturday evening.

We welcome all who can come and enjoy these services with us.
Sister Ruth Kleinhen, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation asks you to fellowship with us for our Lovefeast week-end, April 13 and 14. Services begin Saturday morning at 10:45. This is a change in date from our usual April Lovefeast. Remember us in prayer if you can't attend.

Sister Mary Sue Moss, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

MARCH 15, 1985

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OUR CHOICE

Folks that have a mind to think
Will find it's never full...

Those who have two eyes to see
Will never find life dull.

The wisdom of this old world
With God is foolishness...

Those who work to serve Him here -
He tells them - He will bless.

Those who study and love His Word
Find favor in His sight...

And those who walk the narrow way
Shall never fear the night.

The Lord made us to serve Him,
But NEVER WILL DEMAND IT!

Those who do His will shall LIVE
And be led by His Spirit.

- Irene Stout

CAIN'S SINS

Once sin had entered the heart of man it soon worked havoc in the life of man. Soon after the Creation sin came in the Garden of Eden, when Satan deceived Adam and Eve and persuaded them to trade communion with God for worldly knowledge. This sin caused Adam and Eve to be driven from that perfect place.

After their departure from Eden, two sons, Cain and Abel, were born to Adam and Eve. They had the same hopes for their children that parents have today. But sin ruined those hopes. The one was killed and the other, ruined. Certainly Satan had reaped more than just Adam and Eve for their sin affected their family and, in fact, all their descendants down to today.

Cain's sin was not limited to one particular sin for one sin soon led to others. The beginning of Cain's downfall came because of his failure to have a proper relationship with God. This pattern has been repeated innumerable times since with the same tragic result.

As Cain and Abel matured into young adulthood, they were required to bring a sacrifice to God. Abel, the shepherd, brought a sacrifice from his flock. It was a bloody sacrifice, which fulfilled God's requirement. Cain, the farmer, brought of the very best of his grain. It was not accepted by God for there was no blood. Some have defended Cain by saying that he did not know what he needed to bring to please God. But his parents had undoubtedly rehearsed the account of their fall before their sons many times. They would have told how their bloodless fig leaves were unable to cover either their nakedness or unrighteousness before God. It was necessary for the blood of animals to be shed to provide the skins to clothe them properly. Many today have a bloodless fig leaf religion. They do not know or want to know about the blood of Jesus Christ, the only way

THE BIBLE MONITOR**MARCH 15, 1985**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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their unrighteousness can be covered. Like Cain, they have heard of the life giving blood but prefer the lifeless grain because it is easier and less traumatic than the required blood sacrifice.

Cain could have traded some of his grain for a proper lamb, but in his pride he felt he could do it his own way and still please God. But when his sacrifice was not accepted, his feelings were hurt. He became jealous of Abel. Many today become jealous of others rather than take a proper view of themselves and their faults. This jealousy soon became hatred and rage. Uncontrolled, it soon led from thought to fact in the murder of Abel. Sin not only touched Cain but reached out to touch others with its effects.

When God came to Cain to inquire about Abel, Cain added to his sin by lying. He also revealed his lack of concern for others which goes along with a lack of concern with one's own relationship with God. Today's general feeling is that every one should do their "own thing" and not worry about its effects upon others. What if God did His "own thing" and did not regard mankind's well being?

After the vagabond Cain had a son, Enoch, his pride came to the forefront again. He named the town where he was after his son. His example has been multiplied many times over as men have named places after themselves or their families.

The influence of parents upon their children and grandchildren can be immense for good or evil. Cain was no exception. His influence was to lead them in ungodly ways. Several generations after Cain his ungodly influence bore several results. Lamech began the practice of having more than one wife. This had not been God's intention in the Creation but sinful men began to tamper with God's order. Lamech's sons invented other things that hampered man's worship of God. Jubal was the father of instrumental music. By these devices, he made worship an impersonal activity. Now, worship could be not by the melodies coming from the human throat and heart but a mechanical noise. His brother Tubal-Cain was the inventor of the process of making jewelry and other metallic decorations. These things have led the hearts of many away from the humble service of God into a worship of manmade beauty and accomplishment. Unfortunately polygamy, musical instruments and jewelry were borrowed from Cain's ungodly family by the godly line and have since entered into the Church.

Certainly Cain has had a long lasting influence. His sins and those of his family have had a great effect upon people. Unfortunately that influence is not just in the unbelieving world but in the Church as well.

Let us each guard our lives that we be not overcome by Cain's sins.

ONLY THE BEGINNING

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth", but He didn't stop there. He created the sun, moon, plants, animals, and human beings. God was pleased with all He had created, but unlike us, He did not lose interest in the completed creation. God put everything on this earth that was needed to sustain the life He had created. He even made a special place for Adam and Eve to live.

This was still only the beginning, even though creation was complete. God kept in contact with Adam and Eve, to fellowship with them and to see how they were doing. Very soon, they were in trouble, for they had disobeyed. This, too, was only a beginning, because sin and disobedience are still with us. Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin, and people still do this, but sin can't be hidden. God knew about their disobedience before He asked them, and He knows also when we disobey.

Was this the end for man? He had sinned himself right out of God's favor. Now what? God did mete out judgment then, but not without mercy. He drove Adam and Eve from the Garden to make sure they could not eat of the tree of life, and live forever in sin. This, too, was a beginning — the beginning of the revelation of God's plan of salvation.

Many hundreds of years passed, and many generations lived and died before God's plan became a reality on this earth. Many people — God's people looked for the promised Messiah, but only a handful actually witnessed His coming. Even so, God's salvation can be just as real to us as it was to those who were eyewitnesses. Faith in Christ and His saving power is what we need to experience salvation personally.

Faith, too, is only a beginning, but it is of utmost importance. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen", and "without faith, it is impossible to please him" (God). Heb. 11:1, 6. From this beginning of faith, we need to go on and prove our faith by our works. Read James 2:14-26. In essence, this is a life of obedience to Christ, not a series of charitable deeds done to win favor with God and/or man.

The beginning represents a starting point. It is not the completion or end. All too often, people come to faith in Christ, going as far as receiving Christian baptism, then stop. They seem to think this is all God requires, and having done that, they go merrily on their way. This is a bit like starting out on a long journey, then stopping at the first little town. Thus, the trip is never completed.

Christian faith should be followed by Christian works and Christian

growth. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18. Faith is the starting point, and is to be followed by some action. It is the beginning of a lifetime commitment to Christ, a lifetime of serving Him.

God expects us to be faithful to Him and this is only reasonable. See Rom. 12:1. He deserves wholehearted service, and will bless us if we are obedient. This, too, is only the beginning. No matter what God blesses us with here, it can't compare with what will be ours in Eternity. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." I Cor. 2:9.

Many things only begin in this life, but there is one thing which will end here. When we go to be with Jesus, the heartaches and sorrows of this life will all be left behind. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be anymore pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4. However, we can say this, too, is just the beginning — of eternal bliss. Prepare yourself for it now, won't you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Manners"

In I Peter 3:8, we are instructed to "be courteous." To be God's person, we need to follow that teaching. Are you sometimes, usually, or always mindful of the rights of others or are you unmindful. Do you fail to express gratitude to those who do nice things for you? Are you gracious to strangers but forever growling at those who are near and dear to you? Are you very careful of your own belongings but careless of the possessions of others? How about when you borrow something? Do you return it? How simplistic these questions seem yet your ability to answer them in the right way may well prove whether you are a Spirit controlled person or not.

We live in a rapid age, an age of eating rapidly, working rapidly, thinking rapidly, traveling rapidly and so forth. Our forefathers traveled in ox carts and horse-drawn vehicles, making only ten to fifty miles per day. Today we travel in cars or transcontinental planes, going hundreds or even thousands of miles a day. Things move so quickly that we are in danger of being too busy to appreciate the little courtesies of life.

Possibly you think you don't have time for good manners, that they belong to an age in which things moved slowly. You may think it is

"sissy" or weak to be polite and show outward appreciation. Or you may think that politeness is related to hypocrisy, that it is a pretense, a showing of feelings that are not genuine.

Far from being a weakness, politeness is actually strength under control. It is strength held in check, out of consideration for the rights or the benefits of others. Instead of selfishly taking what it can get, politeness stands aside and allows others to obtain what they need or want. Worldly politeness consists basically of showing deference to those to whom it is expedient to manifest consideration. That is the philosophy of the humanists and the satanists. In contrast, Christian politeness is founded on something altogether different from the desire to gain favor. Essentially, it is doing to others what you would have them do to you. It does the kindest thing in the kindest way, which is the essence of true politeness. We must be polite to those who can do nothing, or will do nothing, in return. Politeness is the expression of Christian charity. We are polite because of loving consideration for those for whom Christ died.

False politeness is tainted with hypocrisy. True politeness is permeated through and through with love for our fellowman.

We have to live with others. We are all social beings. Politeness is the oil that makes possible the smooth operation of these relationships. And, it is needed more, not less, in this rapid age. Because movement is fast, there is a need to be more careful not to collide with emotions and interests of others. Because our selfishness appears in so many forms, we need to manifest, as an outcome of deep, true love of others, a politeness that is born in the soul. This politeness does not show respect of persons. It does not require just the right circumstances. It DOES require a Christ Like personality.

How about it? Do your manners commend or condemn your profession as a Christian?

Brother Leonard Wertz



Louis XII, of France, had many enemies before he ascended the throne. When he became king he caused a list to be made of his persecutors, and marked against each of their names a large black cross. When this became known his enemies fled, because they thought it was a sign that he intended to punish them. But the King caused them to be recalled, with an assurance of pardon, and said that he had put a cross beside each name to remind him of the cross of Christ, that he might endeavor to follow the example of Him who prayed for His foes, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do."

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1925

THE POLICY OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT

D. W. Hostetler

In I Cor. 12:28, Paul speaks about the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church in the dividing of the gifts, and one among the powers given was governments and these were given for the perfecting of the church.

Polity or policy of government: these two words originally meant the same. Polity is now confined to the structure of government civil or ecclesiastical polity, while policy is applied to the management of public affairs as foreign or domestic. Policy has the further sense of skillful management. "Nor is it possible that any form of policy much less polity ecclesiastical should be good, unless God himself be the author of it." - Hooker.

Thus we see that well-defined policy of government is fundamental to the success of any organization. The church is not a law-making body, but she is an executive body. It is her duty and she has delegated to her authority to see to it that her members live New Testament teaching. We cannot have a sign or token of anything unless we have an established order. When we destroy our established order, we have no sign or emblem of simplicity or humility.

Let us look further into the matter of government of the church:

1. The commercial world is organized under rules of government.
2. Labor unions are organized under a well-defined policy of government.
3. Secret orders are bound together under rules of government.
4. The United States of America is founded on a well-defined policy of government.

Why should the church be exempt? Hence, the church of Jesus Christ is established on the New Testament.

But who is the legal interpreter of scripture — the church or the individual? The right of private interpretation belongs to every individual, but scripture that affects the church body must be interpreted by the church.

In Matt. 18:18, we read: "Verily I say unto you whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." The teaching of that text is this: the church has the authority to say what shall and shall not be admitted into the church. To bind is to declare unlawful; to loose was to declare lawful. Whatsoever ye (the church) bind or loose according to the will of God is accepted in heaven.

In Acts 15 we come to the practices of the Apostolic church in dealing with a question that affected the church. The church made the interpretation and this became the rule of the early church.

The first colony of Brethren settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1719 and 1723. The Germantown church was organized with Peter Becker, elder. From this church spread in America and as they went from place to place these early brethren came in contact with questions that involved scripture, that affected the church body.

Non-resistance is a principle the church has always stood for and in 1785 the question was brought before Conference. The church gave her interpretation and established a rule against going to war. (Compiled minutes of A.M. page 9).

Distilling of ardent spirits was a question affecting the early church. In 1783 the Conference decided that no brother can run a distillery and hold membership in the church. (Compiled Minutes of A. M. page 8).

In 1797 Conference passed a decision making slavery a test of membership. (Page 18).

In 1817, Conference decided against mustering to the extent of the withdrawing of fellowship. An earlier decision was made. (Page 10, Art. II).

In 1835 Conference decided that theater-going was unscriptural (page 59).

In 1785 Conference passed a splendid decision on the subject of swearing. (Page 10).

In 1804 Conference placed on record (page 26) her interpretation in relation to secret societies.

In 1817 Conference made a decision about non-conformity which we give in full (page 40): "It was considered that when a member should herein be found guilty, he should be admonished. If the admonition were unheeded, the church could not hold such in full fellowship inasmuch as the Savior says that which is highly esteemed by men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15).

The above shows clearly that the church has always exercised her authority in interpreting scripture which affected the church body. This has always been the policy of church government.

A further look into the matter of non-conformity as it relates to dress. The church as an established order of dress.

1. "That the Brethren wear plain clothing, that the coat with a standing collar be worn.

2. That the Brethren wear their hair and beard in a plain and sanitary manner, that the moustache alone is forbidden.

3. That the Sisters attire themselves in plainly made garments free from ornaments and unnecessary appendages. That plain bonnets

and hoods be the headdress and that the hair be worn in a becoming Christian manner.

4. That the veil be worn in time of prayer and prophesying (I Cor. 11:1-16).¹ The plain white cap is regarded as meeting the requirements of the scriptural teaching.

5. That gold for ornament and jewelry of all kinds shall not be worn."

Now we know that the everchanging styles and fashions are wrong and sinful. And unless we maintain our established order of dress in the church, how can the church keep her members from going into the whirlpool of style and fashion.

THE PRAYER VEILING

The Scriptural basis for wearing of the prayer veil or covering is I Corinthians 11, verses 5-16. This is God's Word, recorded by the Apostle Paul, to the church at Corinth "... with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...".

Chapter 11 deals with the line of authority in worship. In God's order, given for effective functioning of the body of believers, He is the Head of Christ and Christ is the Head of man.

Because man is the "image and glory" — the representation and manifestation — of God, he is to pray or prophesy with an uncovered head. Obviously, he is not to remove his hair; likewise the woman's veil is to be in addition to her hair.

As the woman is the glory of the man, she must cover the natural glory, (her hair) in time of prayer and teaching. The glory of the man is not to be manifest in spiritual exercises, therefore that glory (the woman) must be covered. No glory but God's is to be seen in times of worship.

Although the Bible only mentions covering the hair in times of praying and prophesying, it also instructs believers to "pray without ceasing". For this reason, many choose to wear the covering constantly. It is a sign to the angels, both good and evil, that the woman is subject to God's order and has a place in His kingdom. This is not to say she is inferior to man in God's sight, but rather she is happy in fulfilling her God-given ministry. Neither custom nor requirement of the church is reason for veiling her head, but choice to serve the God she loves by honoring His Word, thereby receiving His blessing.

Sister Edith Moss
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The above article in tract form is available from the author.

JESUS IS CALLING

Have we accepted our precious Saviour's calling for sinful humanity? As we are near the season of the year when we commemorate His cruel death on the cross and His resurrection unto glory, do we fully realize the great sacrifice He has made for our redemption?

When He was here on earth, He was rejected by many. He came to His own and they received Him not. He was rejected, despised and many were His enemies.

After suffering the cruel death on the cross, He is now with the Heavenly Father interceding for sinful humanity. He is calling for sinners to come unto Him. Also, He is calling to them who have promised to renounce Satan with all the sinful pleasures of this world but are untrue to their promise and are engaged in the sinful things of this world. It is an important matter that we remain true to the trust He left us. It is the desire of our Saviour that all come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. Also He desires all true Christians to have the desire for the salvation of souls.

We have a song that says earnestly and tenderly Jesus is calling for you and me to come home. To get home with Jesus we must be free from sin and folly and take the narrow way of the cross. Jesus the giver of eternal life has promised to His own to be with them always. Through Him we can receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. He is our shield from the works of darkness. He will lead us in the path of truth and righteousness and go with us through the valley of the shadow of death. He suffered for the just and the unjust to bring us unto God.

A falling away from the saving gospel of Christ shows us that the great sacrifices made for us by our Heavenly Father and His Son are not appreciated as they should be. Can we truly say, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretast of glory divine"? We can show our appreciation by being a bright light shining for Him. A Christian light will not commune with darkness.

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Have we faithfully answered the call of Jesus?

Brother J. F. Marks
Rt. 9 Box 860
Plant City, FL 33566

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

Do you remember the day you went with friends to the river, where on bended knees you made a promise before God and those who were with you to live faithfully until death and were baptized and had your name entered on the Book of Life, which no one can erase except you? Your name will stay there till you die if you stay close to Christ and live for Him. But if you turn away, your name will be blotted out. Oh, dear ones, that would be sad. So many who made that promise have left and gone back into sin and out into a world of darkness. We are told as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be when Christ comes. Two will be in the field, one will be taken and the other left. Can any one imagine how one would feel if he were the one left. Be ye ready, the Bible says, in such an hour as you think not the Son cometh. Just how do you think you would feel when Christ comes to call His own and you were not one of them?

We are to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15. As we go to the house of God are we able to remember the words we have heard or are our minds filled with our daily life so we don't have any room for the message we have heard?

Are we so tired when Sunday comes we can't go to Church but we stay home to get a rest so we will be able to go to work Monday morning? To me, I seem to be at rest when I am in God's House because I know that is where He wants me to be. The services are very short compared to a day of work. Our Saviour says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." The Apostle said, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

He knew that when the end comes, we will have wars and earthquakes, nations rising against nations, and a falling away by those who once loved and served the Lord. We see this all about us today. Therefore we should work harder, having our things in shape so we will be ready for Christ's return. I pray we are all working to build one another up, so we can say as the Apostle said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." I pray we will all work to that end so Christ's name will be honored and glorified.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE INROADS OF PIETISM

David Brubaker

The church of Jesus Christ is constantly under attack. Some forces come as a roaring lion. Others are quiet and stealthy like a cancer, hardly recognizable until terminal stages. Obviously these are the most dangerous and deadly.

Pietism is one of these threats. Its appeal is broad and the potential inroads numerous. Since Pietism and Anabaptism have some similarities, we need to compare and contrast the two in an effort to apply the truth of the Scriptures to our present day.

Pietism made its appearance on the religious scene in the late 1600's. The Reformation was now about 175 years old and much of the Lutheran, Reformed and Calvinistic movement had lost its original zeal. The result was a cold, traditional and hypocritical church life that was little different than the Catholicism they had left. In these circles were those who were dissatisfied with the situation and wanted something better.

The general outcome of this interest was a heavy, individualized emphasis on inner experience and devotion to God. Eventually a system of Bible interpretation and thought developed that became known as Pietism. In contrast to the deadness of Protestantism, this indeed seemed as light from heaven. And, no doubt, it was much more spiritual and meaningful than the emptiness from which it sprang.

Pietism should not be confused with the commendable quality of piety. Piety may be defined as "fidelity to natural obligation and dutifulness in religion," while Pietism is "an overly sentimental or emotional devotion to religion."

Anabaptism's exposure to Pietism was inevitable because both originated in the same geographic cradle. Like Protestantism, Anabaptism was now approaching 200 years of existence. Persecution had diminished and the Mennonite church, while maintaining the outward forms of disciplines, was greatly threatened with dead traditionalism.

In the midst of this struggle the gospel of the Pietists was attractive. Their doctrine had many similarities to Anabaptist doctrine. And since their emphasis on inner experience actually seemed more spiritual to the undiscerning and those who failed to envision the long range results, the seedbed for Pietism was fertile.

Significantly, it seems the Pietistic movement was more successful in groups of Anabaptist origins than amongst the Protestants themselves. Historians also concede that Pietism has probably claimed more Mennonite victims than modernism, humanism and

other "isms." From its conception, until the present day, Pietism has doggedly followed the trail of the Anabaptist wherever there has been a conscientious group effort to apply the Scriptures to daily life.

A quick comparison of the birth of Anabaptism will help illuminate the nature of Pietism.

Anabaptism was born out of a compelling conviction to apply the Scriptures to all areas of life. The Brethren were not satisfied to merely hold the Truth — it had to be lived. They understood the call of discipleship as a radical, revolutionary experience of obedience — even to death. To them, commitment to Jesus Christ was the motivating force. The Scriptures, energized by the Holy Spirit, became the supreme authority. The fellowship of the believers was a binding authority whose Spiritual voice was held high. Personal feelings and enjoyment were incidental and not highly esteemed. The Christian life was a calling to surrender, sacrifice, service and suffering. On their poured-out lives, the fire of the Gospel of Jesus Christ burst into a flame calling men and women everywhere to a like experience in Jesus Christ. We are among the grateful recipients.

Pietism was not born in such tumult. Rather it was born in the palled stillness of a religious graveyard. While its birth was stimulated by the awakened awareness of the need for inner spiritual life, its emphasis almost totally surrounded personal experience. Experience became an end in itself rather than the springboard to obedience and service. Inner light and personal revelation were exalted. There was no emphasis on the brotherhood of believers being the Body of Christ. The general practice was to remain within the nominal church and to simply exist as an island of Christianity wherever one happened to be.

Pietist literature and theology were more devotional than practical. Satisfaction stemmed from "good feelings" rather than conscious awareness of submission and commitment to Jesus Christ. Responsibility to discipleship was not stressed. Persecution was rare for Pietists because of their avoidance of conflict.

Especially obvious was the rejection of any form of outward guide and discipline in the Christian life. These were regarded as mechanical and anti-spiritual. Personal conviction and revelation were held forth as the highest authority and final judge. Group voice was not needed in the estimation of the personal inner light.

Because Pietism overlooks the foundational elements of ongoing group life and survival, solidarity never develops. Groups embracing this doctrine usually do not exist for any great length of time. The individualistic, loose approach to fellowship offers no protection within the body. Consequently, even though the language of spirituality is heard, very little group interpretation and direction is given on

how to live. This results in many such groups drifting into disillusionment and worldliness. Liberalism sets in and the spirit of Pietism stalks its next victim.

The success of Pietism in the broader Mennonite circle is quite evident. Where Pietism has taken root the church has lost disciplinary power over her membership. Responsibility for determining qualifications has been laid upon each individual. The door for participation in communion has been flung wide open and group responsibility and authority have been replaced by personal liberty and judgment. The deciding factor about one's spiritual standing has become personal testimony or lip service rather than personal life and obedience. Personal convictions are lifted above group conscience until finally and sadly there is no evidence of either. What is left is little different from main-stream religion and bears little resemblance to Anabaptism.

Conservative groups who believe in a Scripturally disciplined church are today threatened by Pietism on one hand, and traditionalism and the danger of depending on outward conformity for salvation on the other hand. These twin threats shadow any group that attempts to practice a Biblical balance of a faith that works.

- To be continued
Selected from The Eastern
Mennonite Testimony

CHASTENING

Grace E. Troy

I know not why His hand is laid
In chastening on my life,
Nor why it is my little world
Is filled so full of strife.

I know not why, when faith looks up
And seeks for rest from pain,
That o'er my sky fresh clouds arise
And drench my path with rain.

I know not why my prayer so long
By Him has been denied:
Nor why, while others' ships sail on,
Mine should in port abide.

But I do know that God is love,
That He my burden shares,
And though I may not understand,
I know for me He cares.

I know the heights for which I long
Are often reached through pain,
I know the sheaves must needs be threshed
To yield the golden grain.

I know that, though He may remove
The friends on whom I lean,
'Tis that I thus may learn to love
And trust the One unseen.

And, when at last I see His face
And know as I am known,
I will not care how rough the road
That led me to my home.

Selected

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

Jesus said, "... this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19.
Our Lord willing, we will hold our Spring Lovefeast meetings on
April 6 and 7, Saturday and Sunday. We invite you to come fellow-
ship with us. Let's "exalt His name together!" Psalms 34:3.

Also, District Meeting will be held at Quinter on Monday, April 8.
We hope you can come!

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation will hold their
Spring Lovefeast on April 27 and 28.

Services will begin at 11:00 on Saturday morning, with Lovefeast
service at 7:00 in the evening. There will also be services on Sunday.

We wish to invite all who can to come and enjoy these services
with us.

We are few in number, we ask that you remember us in prayer.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We want to sincerely thank each one that remembered Mark Hart
with cards and gifts. He was overjoyed with each card he opened.
May the Lord richly bless everyone for their kindness.

Brother and Sister Delma Stump

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL 1985

ON MAN

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:5

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Mon. 1 - Exodus 24:12-18

Tues. 2 - Exodus 25:1-22

Wed. 3 - Exodus 30:17-38

Thurs. 4 - Exodus 32:1-35

Fri. 5 - Exodus 33:1-23

Sat. 6 - Exodus 34:1-29

Memory Verse: Deut. 5:24

"Any ye said, Behold, the Lord our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth."

Sun. 7 - Lev. 13:1-17

Mon. 8 - Lev. 17:1-16

Tues. 9 - Lev. 18:1-30

Wed. 10 - Lev. 19:1-22

Thurs. 11 - Num. 12:1-16

Fri. 12 - Num. 14:1-25

Sat. 13 - Num. 15:27-41

Memory Verse: Deut. 7:24

"And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them."

Sun. 14 - Num. 16:1-22

Mon. 15 - Num. 16:22-50

Tues. 16 - Num. 17:1-13

Wed. 17 - Num. 21:1-9

Thurs. 18 - Num. 23:1-30

Fri. 19 - Num. 24:1-25

Sat. 20 - Deut. 4:25-40

Memory Verse: Deut. 15:6

"For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee."

Sun. 21 - Deut. 5:22-33

Mon. 22 - Deut. 12:1-19

Tues. 23 - Deut. 16:13-17

Wed. 24 - Deut. 19:1-21

Thurs. 25 - Deut. 29:1-29

Fri. 26 - Deut. 34:1-12

Sat. 27 - Joshua 1:1-18

Memory Verse: Deut. 15:7

"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:"

Sun. 28 - Joshua 2:1-24

Mon. 29 - Joshua 3:1-17

Tues. 30 - Joshua 4:1-24

Memory Verse: Deut. 16:17

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

APRIL 1, 1985

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LIFT YOUR GLAD VOICES

Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die;
Vain were the terrors that gathered around Him,
And short the dominion of death and the grave.

He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound Him,
Resplendent in glory, to live and to save:
Loud was the chorus of angels on high, —
The Savior hath risen, and man shall not die.

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;
The being He gave us death cannot destroy:
Sad were the life we may part with tomorrow,
If tears were our birthright, and death were our end.

But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to Heaven ascend:
Lift then your voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die.

- Henry Ware, Jr.

THE INTER-RELATED GOSPEL

On Easter we remember the Resurrection of our Saviour. His resurrection could not have happened if Jesus had not been crucified and buried. His death and burial would have had no purpose or significance, beyond the death of any person, if His life had not been a perfect life. It was without spot or blemish. His life could not have been perfect if He had not been Virgin-born in Bethlehem. He was the Son of God. All of these facts concerning Him are important and inter-related.

As we look at the Bible's commands and precepts we find a similar relationship. The various doctrines and practices of the Church are not independent of one another nor of other Spiritual teachings. Just as the various parts of God's Creation are interdependent so are the doctrines in His Word. A God who made an orderly universe certainly will not present His teachings disorderly nor will He be worshipped in a disorderly way.

There is a connection between Jesus' birth, life and death. Without one the others would be incomplete and without meaning. He was virgin born that His entrance would not be by the natural ways of men but supernatural. He was not the inheritor of man's sinful nature. If He had been born by natural means He would have been imperfect because of the human nature that would have been His. He was the Son of God not man.

His life was without spot or blemish. The best of men in this world have never been able to obtain or even approach the total perfection that was His. It was His by His birthright and by His God-ordained living.

When He died on the cross He did not die for any sins of His own; He did not have any. No other person who has lived in this world has

THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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been able to meet that perfect standard. His death was an atonement for men who have failed to meet God's standard of perfect living. Since no other has met it, His death was for all men. Although He died for all, not all have profited by it. That is a terrible waste of a dear price paid. So that price will not be wasted, each individual must acknowledge his own sinfulness and accept the sacrifice made by Christ. His sacrifice, when accepted, replaces the sacrifice that each of us would need to pay for our sins, were it possible.

Like other men, after His death, His body was laid in a grave. Although it had been newly hewn in the hillside for Joseph of Arimethea, he freely gave it for the burial of Jesus. The lateness of the burial hour prevented the women who wanted to minister to His body from completing their task. Thus it was necessary for them to return on the morning after the Passover. Thus they were the first to view the empty grave.

He had been born to die but He had died to rise again. The grave no matter how well sealed and guarded could not hold Him. God had accepted the atoning sacrifice of Jesus and by this means all could know it was so. If He had not risen, then the word of the Pharisees would have been true. They had accused Him of blasphemy for saying that He was the Son of God. But He did not stay in the grave. He came forth victorious over death and Hell.

Satan had supposedly been victorious over Jesus. He had had his way in bringing about the death of Jesus but not the "heel-bruise" could realize that he had in the end been overcome by the "head-crusher." Although Jesus' victory is not always openly evident, it is a fact and therefore Satan knows he is limited. No longer does death have to be final. Now through the resurrection of Jesus, death for each one can be overcome and Satan's ultimate weapon defeated.

The Plan of Salvation is connected directly with the events of the first Easter. Faith is necessary to accept the fact of these events, when so many in this world deny their existence. Faith is also needed to accept what Jesus has done for men. It is one thing to know that these things have been done, it is another to realize they have been done for us as individuals. Seeing Jesus as the perfect sacrificial Lamb for our sins, we must realize our own sinful condition. We must confess our sins of heart, mind and hand. Through trine immersion we are identified more fully with His death, burial and resurrection. Our identification with Him should continue throughout our earthly lives that we might live as those who have been raised from the dead. We can now be alive unto God and anticipating of His Will for us, thus it is

God's Word is given as a revelation of His Will for us, thus it is inter-related and established for our Spiritual well being.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Religious Practices"

We are living in a day when the religious practices of the conservative church are considered antiquated. Modern churches try to put-down traditional practices as being without value and in general desire to "go with the flow" of the humanistic society. These practices put demands on peoples' lives and we have been taught in the public education system to rebel against the tried and true and set values of Biblical Christianity.

There are many religious practices which have been handed down from generation to generation, starting with the Apostles, which must remain within the structure and framework of our dear church. Of course, some Bible commands such as the woman's head covering is today considered only a traditional church practice, when it is not. As we look back to the example of early Christian sisters, we find that the covering motif used by the Dunkard Brethren Church clearly supports and identifies with early Church custom and understanding of the requirement.

In addition, many call the complete "Lord's Supper" an antiquated ceremony, needless for our modern day. Again, we can eliminate this part of our Christian experience from the optional because it is fully explained in New Testament teaching and we follow the example given to us by our Lord. Looking back to early Church history, we find the ordinances carried out very much like we do them today. Historians call the occasion "coming together for a love feast."

Again, the holy kiss is considered by modern Christendom as an archaic practice. Nothing could be farther from the truth. They term a five time command as a custom of the period of time in which the Bible was written. This untruth has led the modern church to be separate, exclusive, and uncaring of their fellow members as they see no commitment made to the other men and women of their body. We must continue to show our love for Christ and our Brothers and Sisters in this required and beautiful way.

What about conservative dressing? Can it be classified as only an option? There is no question that the Bible teaching of modesty and separation in our inward and outward being is a straightforward teaching and not a custom or fallacy. Criticism comes from outside the conservative church saying that separated Christians feel exclusive and have lost their witness. Likewise, criticism occurs even within the Bible believing Churches that we are living in the past and it makes us somehow inferior. Is God inferior? Are His teachings to be taken lightly or with disdain? We need only to look at God's chosen people, Israel, and we understand His desire for His chosen ones to be different and peculiar. (Remember that "peculiar" means to belong

exclusively to one person; to be distinctive and different from the usual. Some would rather define it as "eccentric" or "queer" and certainly those terms have nothing to do with the Greek definition of the word.) Although the Bible does not give us the exact pattern for dress, yet it very profoundly teaches us that clothing which expresses humility and quietness of spirit, along with being unpretentious is necessary. So we see that our conservative dress is not just a custom but a requirement for God's people.

What would be an example of a religious practice which would be a harmful tradition? One would be the standard of "sowing wild oats" by young people. Even though this would be a tradition, it would be very dangerous and contrary to sound doctrine. It would promote sensuality rather than spirituality.

In II Thessalonians we are taught, "Therefore brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught whether by word, or our epistle." This was commanded to provide safety for the believer. We are many times shortsighted in seeing the importance of our Church practices. The alternative to our acceptance and application of Church policy is worldliness and adoption of the satanic standards of this age. When we become negligent in keeping Christ's commands, we begin to replace them with the alternatives offered by the world.

Religious practices that we abide by and uphold might include a formal approach to our worship services. Although the Word is not specific in dealing with our form in worship, yet it instructs us to carry it out in holiness and in order. It strongly supports the structured service.

We must not disregard the commands of God to appear acceptable to the world. We must offer an alternative to the permissiveness of the modern Church. Our practices must remain true and consistent across the Brotherhood and we need to be able and willing to give an answer to those who would question God's commands and customs. Let others know that we don't practice our doctrine just "because we were brought up that way," but because we strongly believe it, even as the Holy Spirit has revealed it unto the Church. Be faithful and continue to promote and embrace the truth.

Brother Leonard Wertz



In a cemetery, a little white stone marked the grave of a dear little girl, and on the stone were cut these words: "A child of whom her playmates said: 'It was easier to be good when she was with us.'" Lord Peterborough, in speaking about Fenelon, said, "I was forced to get away from him, else he would have made me pious."

ALL HE HAD

Jesus gave all He had to give — and it was all for our benefit. He gave up Heaven and all its joys to live on this earth which was, and is now, filled with heartache. He experienced first-hand the many difficulties we face, the temptations, trials and disappointments. Jesus experienced the wrath of mankind when He was rejected and finally crucified. Jesus was treated like a common criminal, yet He was sin-free. He endured all this for us!

Jesus, God's Son, gave all He had to give, including His life. Everything He did, everything He gave us was for us, but for some people, this is not enough. They either won't accept Jesus at all, or they try to add their own ideas to what He has done for them. When one has given all, nothing can be added to it, and we can't add anything to Jesus' provision for us.

Jesus came into this world with only one purpose — to save sinners. See I Tim. 1:15. In order to save us, He had to give His life to pay the penalty for sin. Living with that knowledge for over thirty years surely wasn't pleasant, but Jesus never backed away from what He came to do. He faced even the most difficult times with a desire to do God's will, and He did fulfill His Father's Will.

Because of Jesus and all He did for us, we can be in fellowship with God. Without Jesus, we are not acceptable to God. Yet there are those who will not accept this, and expect salvation on their own terms or they want nothing to do with God at all. They forget that we, the creation, are subject to the Creator, and to refuse His plan of salvation leaves no room for forgiveness.

God gave His all — His Son — to redeem us. Jesus gave all He had to give and paid the entire penalty for our sin. What more could we want? We ought to be filled with gratitude above measure to know Jesus loved us so much. To reject Him is to say that what He did for us wasn't really of value, but, it is worthwhile and salvation is the best gift we can ever receive.

Jesus has a personal concern for each one of us and takes care of our needs on a personal basis. Salvation has been provided for all through Christ's death and resurrection, but we must accept it individually. We are not automatically saved. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. The provision is there, and now it's up to us to accept it.

Salvation is our basic need and Jesus provided for it. He also has other things for those who believe in Him. He promised us the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us (John 14:26). He promised us His peace (14:27), His strength, His love. Besides all this, Jesus promised

us a special home in Heaven, and when the time is right, He will return for us (John 14:2-3). Thinking of all Jesus has provided for us, we know we have every reason to serve Him, to accept His love-gift to us.

Jesus gave all He had to give, the best He had to give, and it is still for us today. What Jesus expects of us hasn't changed either. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. Jesus gave His all for us and we should give our all to Him. We have no right at all to hold anything back.

When we tell people about Christ, and all He has done for us, they won't always listen. Even when we do our best, our efforts will fail unless the hearers are receptive to the Gospel. But whether people are receptive or not, they must make a decision. "No man can serve two masters... Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24. We, as well as they, must give our all to one or the other, and the choice made will determine our destiny.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matt. 22:37. Jesus gave His all for you. Now, He is asking you to give your all to Him. Will you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "Hereby preceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18. Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10b.=

The spring season is upon us, ushering in new life! The song birds return to their nesting grounds with their trills of praise to God the Creator; the green grass revives and the early flowers burst forth in glory to God. The Easter celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, the victor over death, hell and the grave, refreshes our spirit to the assurance of the abundant life through the sacrificial love of God in the gift of His Son, who went to the cross and spilled His blood to atone for our sins. Praise God that the sting of death and the victory of the grave have been removed for the believers through the supreme

sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. Hallelujah! Christ arose that we might walk in newness of life and the blessed assurance of immortality with Him.

The hymn writer has penned, "Jesus, paid it all, all to him I owe..." and part of our text suggests that we, as believers in Jesus, "ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" as a sacrificial love act of appreciation to God for what He, through Jesus, has done for us. We are thankful for those who have left houses, and families, and the pursuit of material gain, to carry the Gospel (Good News) of salvation to those in need. Ministers are sent through the support of the Mission Board to the congregations and mission points where there are no ministers. How much better it would be if ministers would be at these places of worship every Lord's Day. Do we lack in sacrificial love to launch out into the deep? The Torreon Navajo Mission at Cuba, New Mexico was assigned to the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1956, and many of our young members as well as older families have given dedicated service in the name of Jesus Christ, to the Navajo people in the Torreon community. Many other Christian people have supported the work there, through generous gifts and labors and prayers. This may be your sacrificial love. We are touched deeply when we are privileged to visit the Torreon Mission, by the eagerness of the Navajo people to know the love of Jesus and to hear the Gospel. The sacrificial love of the staff as they minister to these people is commendable, and they deserve our daily prayers, and material support. The Torreon Navajo Bulletin, published periodically by the Mission, is another work of sacrificial love as the workers there report some of their experiences to the public. We are thankful that most of the articles are about the spiritual needs of the dear souls they are working with, and exalting the Lord for the accomplishments there. We quote a few lines concerning the Christian School from the February issue of the Bulletin: "Most of the Navajo children are coming from homes which have many negative and detrimental influences, yet we see the power of the Gospel being manifested in the lives of the children. The school and the church have taught them many scriptural truths and some of the children have given their lives to the Saviour, yet these children are high risks for spiritual failure." A real concern for their souls is manifested; not reports of sports activities or entertainments which blind so many religious endeavors of our day.

The Lord Jesus sent out seventy of His disciples, two by two, and said unto them, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Our watchword printed on the front cover of the Bible Monitor is: Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

We challenge us with the questions: Is not the Lord just as concerned for the harvest of souls as when he sent out the seventy? Have we grown cold in our zeal to carry out our Watchword? (a watchword is a word or phrase expressive of a principle or rule of action) Where is our sacrificial love?

We received a letter from a Christian native of Nairobi, Kenya, Africa dated December 3, 1984, stating she had the chance to get hold of the May 15, 1982 issue of the Bible Monitor. She wrote, "Please can you tell me more about the members and how they go into all the world and preach the gospel." We answered her letter and have shared the correspondence with the Mission Board. This comes to us as a real challenge as to our putting into practice what we profess. Our test says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth." Are we willing to pay the price to work in the harvest field and gather sheaves for Jesus? Do we have that sacrificial love displayed by Jesus and committed to the Church as living epistles, known and read of all men? Most of us have a high standard of living. God has blessed us with an abundance of material goods, while much of the world's population goes to bed hungry. Even more devastating is the need of spiritual food. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the word of the Lord." Amos 8:11. Are we doing all we can to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature? Or are we lulled into complacency by the things of this present world? Let us all read the thirteenth chapter of Romans, especially verses 8-14, consider who is our neighbor, then fulfill the law of Christ with that sacrificial love as demonstrated by Him.

Brother Ray R. Reed

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1925

THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH

Joseph Swihart

The question is often asked, are they getting better or worse? There are two sides to all questions, a right side and a wrong side, therefore, can only be determined by the truth brought to bear upon the question.

Many are frank to say that the world is getting better, and endeavor from every angle to support their views, though unable to give any scripture reference.

When we speak of the world getting better we speak of it getting

closer to God and more united on the doctrine and principles of the Gospel.

We are not discussing in this article the various evils of the world, but to satisfy our minds, from a Bible standpoint that the world is getting worse.

God commanded Noah to build an Ark, for the saving of his family, for he said, "I will destroy the earth with a flood." Why so? Let us see.

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen. 6:5) In consequence of the greivous and hopeless wickedness of the world at this time, God resolved to destroy it.

If the people in Noah's time were becoming better it would have been cruel to destroy them, but as they became more and more wicked it was wisdom in God to destroy them.

The fact that God did destroy the earth with a flood is sufficient evidence to prove that they were becoming more and more wicked.

Is the world getting better in this Twentieth century? Let us see what the Good Book says.

"And as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." (Luke 17:26)

God destroyed Sodom because of its growing wickedness, and when God comes to destroy this earth on which we now live it will be because of its wickedness.

To say the world is getting better is to misrepresent God's Word.

Second — The Church. Is it getting better or worse?

Many views are taken, much has been said on both sides. If I should say the church is getting better I would have to confess my ignorance to find the scripture to support it.

It is useless here to mention the use of salt in natural things, but the same preserving power has the word of God when rightly applied to the hearts of men.

We will now endeavor to give a few scripture references that constitute the salt in the hearts and lives of men, or the saving power of the church. Trusting the reader will carefully study them and decide in his own mind as to whether the church is getting better or worse.

Eph. 4:3, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace."

Psalms 133:1, "Behold how good, and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unit."

I Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Philippians 1:27, "Only, let your conservation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one Spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel."

I Peter 3:8, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

II Cor. 3:11, "Finally, brethren, farewell, be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

It is true the church has had its ups and downs in all ages. Various evils have broken across the line and caused more or less trouble for the time being, but the church has ever had (until recent years) a watch tower and set about at once to eradicate the evil.

Never in the history of the Brethren church has the various evils been so common as now, with so little effort, if any, to remove them, scarcely any principle, but what meets its opposition in the church, divided and sub-divided is our present condition, and who can truthfully say the church is getting better?

THE INROADS OF PIETISM

David Brubaker

Part 2

There are numerous situations which have potential for the spirit of Pietism to easily take hold. The first is when the church is not as spiritual as she ought to be. Separation and form may be as well ordered as in the church at Ephesus (Revelation 2), but spiritual vibrancy is missing. The congregation may be ever so dutiful in the rituals and the practices of the church discipline, but yet be devoid of an inner relationship with Jesus Christ. One reaction to this dearth may be to fling aside the outward practices because they appear to be the culprit. Spiritual experience may be sought without an accompanying Spiritual practice. This is no solution because the inner emptiness will eventually be just as great and the victims find themselves in the world.

A group's susceptibility to Pietism is also affected by its attitude toward tradition. Tradition is the result of a practice having been engaged in for a length of time. There are many good traditions such as church attendance and family worship which must never change. But in the ongoing life of the church, some traditions which have served their day well, are eventually replaced by other Scriptural practices. How a church views and relates to such fading traditions becomes a major issue. If an attitude of contempt and ridicule, or a

deliberate effort to purge the last vestiges of the tradition develops, the church will invariably fail to continue to promote other necessary outward practices. Emphasis will then be placed on the inner experience without outward application. This is Pietism. The church must maintain respect for fading traditions and see that she always embraces principles and practices that are Scriptural and practical.

Another critical area in relation to Pietism is the attitude a group holds toward the church as the body of Christ (Matthew 16:18-20; 18:15-20). Whenever Scriptural church authority is not exercised, Pietism is sure to set in. A lack of appreciation for and a resistance toward all outward direction and restriction develops. While there might be a conscious objection to a given regulation, there is a resentment against being told what to do. There is a clamor for the privilege to decide for oneself. The carnal desire for individual freedom is then nicely and easily clothed in a cry for inner piety without outward direction.

Church administrators hold a strategic place in preventing the inroads of Pietism. Maintaining a properly disciplined church requires diligent effort by her leaders. Helping the congregation to a balance of faith and practice is of prime importance. Pietism offers a supposed balm to those who become weary of the increasing demands of church administration. The claim is made that if everyone were spiritual, church discipline would be unnecessary. Certainly it would be desirable and pleasant if this would be true of every member. But the Scriptures warn of spiritual dangers from both within and without the church. Even in the powerful apostolic church, discipline was needed in dealing with Ananias and Sapphira. Yet, on the basis of all being Spirit-directed, some leaders have shed their responsibility as shepherds and have become mere advisors to, and eventually followers of their flock. In such a situation, Scriptural directives and principles have again succumbed to the influence of Pietism.

Still another potentially dangerous situation in relation to Pietism involves an improper understanding and expectation of the Christian experience. We may try to make Christianity irresistible by making it look attractive and enjoyable. This emphasis makes Christianity with all its satisfactions and enjoyments an end in itself. This nice, quiet, peaceful emphasis can leave people ill-prepared to face the devious, despised, and crossbearing side of Christian discipleship. The disappointment and disdain which result from this misconception can lead to hasty retreat in time of battle. While penitence, praise and prayer are necessary and proper, God has often called men off their faces to do that which was difficult but needful. We may never overlook the Bible conditions of self-crucifixion and self-denial, and the inevitable conflict of the Christian life.

The spirit of Pietism is subtle and persuasive. It is possible to embrace its doctrine innocently and ignorantly — even in pursuit of deeper spirituality and experience. Because of the religious robes of Pietism, we must be concerned that we are not overtaken by its appeal and deceit.

How can we succeed in the face of such a foe? Praise God there is an answer. The solution is found by closely following the blueprint given in the Scriptures.

First of all, our personal relationship with Jesus Christ must be kept vital and meaningful. The Holy Spirit who satisfies and empowers must fill the heart and the life. He must be the source of all motivation and action.

Secondly, our commitment to Christ must be genuine and current. There must be a constant, conscious surrender to Him that issues into willing, obedient service.

Thirdly, we must respect and obey the Word of God. The Scriptures must be our guide, and the final authority and judge on all issues.

Fourthly, we must maintain a proper understanding of the place of emotion and feeling in Christian experience. Submission and commitment to Christ must be placed above emotion and feeling. The Bible places little emphasis on feeling. When it is mentioned, it is always the result of commitment and not the cause.

Finally, we must value the gifts and authority God has placed within the church. Group conscience and voice must be placed above personal opinion and judgment. The contribution of a spiritual brotherhood must be appreciated and respected in arriving at proper conclusions.

The believer is protected only as he loses his own life and interests in love for His Master. We must daily live at the feet of our Master and allow Him to direct us into His own ways.

Selected from The Eastern
Mennonite Testimony



A little boy planted a single seed in a bank of earth. It grew, budded, and blossomed into blue violets, unseen by the child planter. It also seeded, and the seed fell out upon the bank of earth, and next spring more violets grew; and so for years increasing every season. The boy, grown a man in a foreign land, desired to visit his childhood's home. When he came to the wide bank of violets, he remembered how, years before, he had planted there a seed. "Can it be," he said, "that all these have sprung from the seed I planted?"

OBITUARY

RUTH DRAKE

Sister Ruth Florence Drake, daughter of Benjamin and Catherine Wasnich, was born April 16, 1894, near Pioneer, Ohio, and departed this life on February 26, 1985, at the Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Home near Manheim, Pennsylvania, where she had resided since 1975.

She was united in marriage with Harold Drake on July 25, 1915 in Bryan, Ohio, who preceded her in death in 1971. They owned and operated the Golden Rule Hatchery near Pioneer, Ohio for many years before retiring in 1954.

In the early years of their married life they united with the Church of the Brethren at the Hickory Grove Congregation and in 1926, transferred their church membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church as charter members of the Pleasant Ridge Congregation near West Unity, Ohio.

For a number of years at Hickory Grove and thirty years at Pleasant Ridge, Sis. Ruth was a very faithful Sunday School teacher.

In 1956 she, with her husband, Harold, accepted the call of the General Mission Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church to pioneer work at the Torreon Navajo Mission, Cuba, New Mexico, and they, along with Bro. and Sis. Floyd Haldeman, began the work.

In 1958 they moved to Beaumont, California where they established the Winterhaven Rest Home. In 1975 Ruth moved to Mt. Hope Home near Manheim, Pennsylvania. At the time of her death she was a member of the Lititz Congregation Dunkard Brethren Church. She is survived by three foster children, John Ray Cruse, of Saginaw, Michigan; Mrs. Floyd (Maxine) Swihart, Goshen, Indiana and Mrs. Magnor (Doris) Hjelmstad of LaJunta, Colorado, ten foster grandchildren, seventeen foster great-grandchildren. An adopted son, Keith Drake, passed away in February, 1949, while the family resided near Pioneer, Ohio.

Sis. Ruth will be sadly missed by her family and many friends with whom she shared her wise counsel and advice.

There is a world above,
Where parting is unknown,
A whole eternity of love,
Formed for the good alone,
And faith beholds the dying here
Translated to that happier sphere.

Services were conducted at the Pleasant Ridge Church on Saturday, March 2, 1985, at 10:00 a.m. by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Elder William Carpenter and Elder Robert Carpenter. Interment was in the Floral Grove Cemetery near Pioneer, Ohio.

NEWS ITEMS**PLEVNA, INDIANA**

The Plevna Congregation plans a Spring Lovefeast, April 20. Services as usual on Sunday.

We invite all to these services.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Lord willing, our Spring Lovefeast will be held Saturday evening, April 27, preceded by all day services. On Sunday, services will be regular and a noon meal will be served.

We invite you to share this time with us and to remember us in prayer that we may daily shed Christ's light in this community.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is planning, the Lord willing, a dedication service April 28 on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. As usual we will have the morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by a basket lunch served at noon. You are all most welcome. Come and worship with us as we dedicate our church to the Lord. If unable to attend please remember us in your prayers. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1.

Sister Carolyn Carpenter, Cor.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank each and everyone for the flowers, visits, cards and letters during my stay in the Flower Hospital and at home. And especially for your prayers. May the Lord bless you all.

Sister Vera Armstrong

NOTICE

The time is fast approaching for the business program for General Conference to be compiled. The reports by the Secretary of each board should be in my hands no later than April 15, 1985. All District Meeting clerks should also see to it that any queries are forwarded to me by the above date. Just a friendly reminder — after all Treasurers have your books closed for the year ending March 31, and audited, a copy with auditor's statements should be sent to the writing clerk of Standing Committee, that they may be presented as business for 1985 General Conference.

Elder Harley Flory

General Conference Writing Clerk
R. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Paul R. Myers
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Greentown, OH 44630

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

APRIL 15, 1985

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JESUS CALLS US

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
Christian, love Me more than these."

Jesus calls us; by Thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thy obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

Mrs. Cecil F. Alexander

SAMUEL'S PURPOSE

Samuel had served God and His people faithfully for a long time. Since his youth he had served, now in his latter years it almost seemed to have been in vain. His own sons had turned against God and had become corrupt. The people had failed to worship and serve God as they should have done.

Now, the people had decided they needed a king so they could be like other nations. Samuel had resisted their wishes, until God told him that the people had not rejected him but God Himself. Samuel had faithfully warned them of their sin of rejecting God in favor of a fleshly king. They did not want to be peculiar. He warned them that a king would take their sons and daughters and press them into his service. He would also take their lands and houses when he wished. The king's demands would improvise their economy and make all subject to him. They still wanted a king.

Although God had told Samuel that the people had not really rejected him, Samuel continued to feel rejected. He also continued to admonish the people about the unprofitableness of having a king. Several times he spoke of the problems they would have because they had chosen an earthly king. While Samuel was rejected and down-cast, he continued to fulfill his purpose.

When little he had answered God's call to serve Him. Now, when elderly, he continued to serve Him with the same fidelity. "Moreover as for me God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way." I Sam. 12:23. Here was Samuel's purpose. Although rejected, he would not neglect doing his duty. Unlike many who do not get their way, Samuel still fulfilled his purpose. He did not allow his hurt to prevent him from doing what was best for his people despite their failure to realize it.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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Samuel continued to pray for them. They were certainly in need of the prayers of a godly man. They would need the Spiritual support of a Samuel as they began to suffer under the worsening conditions under their king, Saul. As Saul's Spiritual life declined, the woes of having a king increased, as Samuel had warned.

Although the people, in general, did not wish to hear what was right and good, Samuel would continue to teach them what was pleasing to God. He taught them what was right and good in God's eyes and not necessarily what was right in man's sight. He placed before them a standard that they should accept and live up to.

Samuel may have been looked down upon by an overwhelming majority of the people but he was approved by God. Today the conservative, plain Church is despised by not only the world but by even those who profess to be Christians. Like Samuel, though scorned and even hated, the Church must continue to fulfill its purpose.

The Church must be a place and people of prayer. Not only must prayer be made in the services of the congregations but the members must privately be a praying people. There must be prayer not only for individual wants and wishes but also for those who are outside the ark of safety and those who though numbered with the Saints are not living up to God's standard for His people. Samuel was concerned for his people because of their worldward ways. The Church must likewise be concerned.

Plain, conservative Christians are but a small remnant. Their numbers are very small compared to the general population or to professing Christian people. Some would suggest that being so few, there is no need for such a people. To most they are left over from another time. They are dated and old fashioned. Perhaps, even they, themselves, wonder if there is any purpose for their existence. Is there any reason for them to buck the trend of the times? Samuel was proven right in his indictment of the people's wishes for a king. Although his voice was a solitary beacon of opposition, he was right.

Samuel, although outnumbered and despised, continued to pray and to teach. The Church today must not allow an overwhelming majority to keep her from holding forth the Word of Truth. She cannot allow herself to compromise. Never must she be silenced, although her message may be controversial to others. The standard contained in the Word of God must be maintained — that is the right and good.

Samuel was right. The Church must be as consistent in maintaining God's standard as Samuel was. Samuel had a purpose. The Church must have a purpose.

THE FIRST OPERATION

#1

Surgery is done to correct a problem, such as removal of a diseased organ, to correct improper function and so on. The Bible tells us of some surgery done to correct a different problem. Adam was the one with the problem - he was alone. We wouldn't expect surgery to be a cure for loneliness, but in Adam's case, it was. God was aware of Adam's problem and took measures to correct it.

God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18. God created us with a need for companionship, and being without it isn't good. This does not mean that every human being must marry, but neither is it good to be without friends and families. Adam was alone, with only the animals for friends, and he needed someone of his own kind.

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Gen. 2:21-22. This was similar in procedure to surgery done today, but God's purposes were far different. He created another human being, a woman, to be Adam's companion.

Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." Gen. 2:23. He accepted Eve as a part of himself, even though she was a separate person. This was the beginning of their marriage, and by being a part of each other, they excluded all others. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Gen. 2:24.

Several things are necessary to a successful marriage. One person gave four basics: "1) Severance - leaving parents; 2) Bonding - cleaving to each other; 3) Unity - in it together, a mutual commitment; 4) Intimacy - becoming one flesh." As you can see, this requires the efforts of both husband and wife. One can't do it alone. There must be a desire to be a part of each other's lives, or there will be no true bond.

God created the man first, but was not satisfied to stop with that. He next created man's helper, a woman. She is spoken of nowadays as an "helpmeet" or "helpmate." God said, "I will make an help (or helper) meet for (suitable for) him." A helper is an assistant, with the primary responsibility resting on someone else. In this case, it is the man who has the greater responsibility. Throughout the Scriptures, God places the man in this position, while the woman has the position of helper or assistant.

After sin entered in, God said in part to the woman, "... thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Gen. 3:16. We have all seen situations in which a woman has been mistreated and taken advantage of because of her dependency. There is no

Christian love or respect for her in her husband's heart when such a condition exists, and surely God is not pleased. Abuse, whether it is verbal or physical, can never be justified.

Women have no right to mistreat their husbands either. It seems rather humorous when we hear of some woman chasing her husband out of the house with an iron skillet or a rolling pin, and some husbands probably deserve such treatment. But let's consider the more subtle matters. Women may nag, show disrespect, be ill-tempered, always criticizing, never satisfied with anything their husbands do for them. Others take advantage of their husbands' love and desire to please them by making selfish demands. This sort of conduct doesn't please God either.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. . . For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church . . . Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (parts of Eph. 5:25-33)

When God performed that first "operation", He did it to improve Adam's life. Although quite different, He designed the man and women to blend together, to harmonize, to complement each other. Marriage was not intended to be a battleground. The preceding Scripture tells us what God expects of us and that is to love each other. A marriage without mutual love is only an empty relationship.

This love is active, not passive. It is a giving love, not a getting love. Although specifically addressed to husbands, the loving, nourishing and cherishing can apply to both husband and wife. Remember — one partner cannot make a marriage work; it takes both partners. If you mistreat your spouse, if you refuse to put your best into your marriage, you will reap what you sow. There is no room for selfishness, and being selfish is the surest way to kill the love your partner has for you.

If you are unmarried, think seriously about God's purpose in marriage. Consider what He expects of you, as it is not a matter to be taken lightly. Don't commit yourself to marry anyone until you are ready for all the responsibilities of marriage. Above all, don't trust your judgment in choosing a companion; ask God to show you His will in the matter. Parents, don't trust your judgment either, and don't push your son or daughter into a marriage which looks good to you. Let God do the arranging. He always knows best.

Marriage, the result of the "first operation", was designed by God. Marriage can be a blessing in your life if 1) you marry the right one, 2) accept your responsibility in it, and 3) make God a vital part of your marriage. A good marriage doesn't just happen. May God help you to make the best of yours.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Being "different"

Being different in today's world seems to be the greatest challenge I observe among Christian people. When the world cries out, "Do it my way" . . . we have to be prepared to reply, "No, I'll do it God's way!"

When we deviate from what the world considers normal it is always dangerous. We will be mocked as Christ was mocked. We will be attacked and socially "fed to the lions."

It is not until you really feel God's love and acceptance that you will be able to handle these situations. When you live in His love, you will be freed from the bond of the chains of peer fear.

When you consider the pressures of being different and separated unto Christ, remember that Christ was also mocked. He was kicked around, spat upon, called horrible names, and was a total social reject. He experienced more pain than we can ever know as He hung on that old rugged cross at Calvary. And yet He did not compromise and He continued to radiate love. Even as He dangled from that cross and sucked in the last few mouthfuls of air, I believe in essence the crowd was still screaming, "compromise, come one, compromise!" And so you will have to take all of the trash that our society throws at you that you might fully see how much God loves you and how much He understands your pain.

Youth years sometimes seem especially full of pain. Not only is there social pain but in addition, two million young people are physically abused every year. Mocking mouths and jesting tongues cut deep and we build up a defense. (But don't let any of the mocking come from you!) You are not alone! Many martyrs and Jesus Himself experienced it much worse.

Sometimes when we think of the pain we cause our parents and about the laws we have broken and all the messes we have gotten ourselves into, it is hard to believe that God is still holding His hands out to us. But He is. That is the essence of the story of the Prodigal son in the gospel of Luke. God knows that YOU are feeling and He CARES. In fact, He knows what it is like to be rejected by you in most cases.

In this age, scientists try to convince us that the law of evolution brought us into being. This theory has robbed humanity of personal dignity. Because we are considered animals, abortions have increased dramatically and with all this violence, it is very easy to lose sight of the value of life. The world's young people, by the time they are high school graduates, have seen 18,000 murders on television and have literally been conditioned to think of life as "cheap." This atmosphere has frustrated so many youth that for the age group from fifteen to twenty-nine, the only cause of death which exceeds the taking of their own lives is car accidents.

What is lacking? In wisdom, Solomon teaches us in Eccl. 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not . . ." Remembering God makes you realize you are not a biological product of nature but rather you are His personal handiwork and thus you can accept yourself. Your soul is of more value than all of the world's treasures. He loves everything about you. . . . your smile, your nose, your hair, your size and shape. And accepting your uniqueness is according to His will.

If you have felt a lot of pain and have been criticized a lot because you are being the person that God wants and asks you to be, then let the fact that Jesus feels your pain touch you where it hurts. If you have been convinced by a so-called "friend" to compromise and have followed the leader into a lot of the world's garbage, come back to the waiting Saviour.

Get out of your pity party and wallowing in the lukewarm vomit of Satan's lifestyle and get into enjoying the refreshing waters of the fountain of life in God. Enjoy being different, for His sake.

Brother Leonard Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1985

PRAYER AND ITS NEED

J. H. Beer

Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for things lawful and needful, with an humble confidence to obtain them. God is the only object of prayer. (Ps. 50:15) David has well said, "Offer unto God thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the Most High." Prayer is indispensable to every child of God. Jesus leaves the watchword and keys, that open to us the doors of heaven, and gives to us the communion of his blessed spirit. (John 14:13-16, Mark 14:38) says, "Watch and pray." Prayer is the Christian's watchword. (I Tim. 2:8) "I will that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." It is unto Christ that every knee should bow and every tongue should confess.

The word prayer comes from a word in the Hebrew which signifies "appeal and intercession", whereby we refer our own cause and that of others unto God, calling upon and appealing to him through the meditation of Christ, who has taught us by example to glorify the Father in prayer.

If prayer should seem a task unto you, allow the light of his blessed word to shine into your heart. (See Luke 22:44-46). May we ever draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith! Prayer is to the soul a source of spiritual strength, and stands in relation to the soul as food does to the natural body. Were you to abstain from food, from which the natural body receives its invigorating strength

it would not be long until you would be unable to perform the duties that are daily devolving upon you: hence, in order that we may regain lost strength, and renew our physical strength, we must partake daily of food. Prayer is a means of grace and strength, giving new courage to the child of God. A home without prayer is in its very nature an unchristian home. Brethren and sisters, have our family altars been neglected? If so, let us awake to the duties that are devolving upon us, day by day. Do not allow the whole mind to be so wholly absorbed in the duties of this life, as to neglect family prayers. Prayer inspires our hope, and revives our souls. It helps us to overcome the temptations of this life.

In prayer we communicate our thoughts and desires to God, whose "eyes are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers." Jesus exemplified in his life, a life of prayer. We read of his rising up early in the morning while it was yet dark to seek a place for prayer. My brother, if you are interested in prayer you will find both time and a suitable place for prayer. The early apostolic church was a praying church (Acts 1:14) We can't think of them as discussing the need of some social event, or entertainment in order to attract a crowd. They continued with one accord in prayer and the power came, and the word of God was preached and souls were saved. Paul earnestly urged his brethren to pray for him that God might bless his labor and work. The old brethren ministers used to ask the brethren to pray while they preached, you don't hear much solicitation for prayers these days from the pulpit. Perhaps the new style of clergy with their titles of Ph. D. and D. D. and LL. D. have eliminated its need.

WHY WORRY ABOUT NONRESISTANCE?

The responsibility of the Selective Service System is to provide people for the Armed Forces in the event of a national emergency. The Selective Service System stands ready to respond to this call immediately in time of need. The purpose of registration is to have a ready file of names and addresses, so that processing could begin quickly and smoothly. In the event of a national emergency, those who are twenty years old would be called first. Others would be called as necessary.

When you receive your induction notice, you have ten days to report for duty to the Armed Forces, or to make an appeal for an exemption. If you wish to be a Conscientious Objector, you must prepare a written statement stating why you shouldn't go to war or participate in any way in the Armed Forces. Then you will appear before a local draft board, who will determine whether or not you are sincere in your beliefs. You will be subjected to intense questioning in an effort to determine the aspects and depth of your beliefs. Following are some of the questions you will be called on to answer.

1. Is your objection to participation in war based on religious training and/or belief? (If yes, explain the belief, or training, and how acquired.) Your answer to this question should reflect your belief in the Bible. State why the Bible is inspired, and why you live your life according to its teachings. State what the Bible teaches about participation in war, and how you should deal with people who are enemies.

2. Is your opposition to participation in war based on the religious tenets or teachings of your church, religious sect, or organization? (If yes, list the religious tenets or teachings and submit a copy of these tenets.) Prepare a list of all the teachings of your church which concern the principle or nonresistance.

3. Are there any tenets or teachings of the church, religious sect, or organization that you chose not to follow? (If yes, explain these tenets and why you choose not to follow them.) Do you live in harmony with the teachings of the Bible and the teachings of the church? Is your life consistent? Do you follow the guidelines of the Polity Book? If there are teachings of the church which you choose not to follow, then why are you choosing to follow the teachings concerning nonresistance? This question is a test of your sincerity.

4. Is your objection to participation in war based on moral or ethical beliefs? (If yes, explain the belief and how acquired.) This question is primarily directed to people who are not members of a church and do not believe in God.

5. Explain the circumstances under which you first realized that you were opposed to participation in war and the date of your realization. This may be difficult to answer for people who were brought up in a Christian home. When did you first think about this issue? Include any illustrations of how you or your parents responded in a loving manner to someone who treated them spitefully.

6. Are you opposed to participation in all wars? Some people are only opposed to wars against communists. Others would fight against certain races of people. The point here is consistency.

7. Are there conditions under which your beliefs would permit you to participate in a war? Suppose your house and property were at stake. Would you join an army to defend your own land? Is there any reason you would ever fight in a war?

8. How have these beliefs influenced your behavior and life style since you first realized that you were opposed to participation in war? Here is your opportunity to describe the times when boys in school would hit you and try to pick a fight, but you didn't hit or fight back. Tell how you obey the laws of the land which are not contrary to scripture. Be sure to live a consistent life! Your references will be checked out thoroughly. What kind of a report will your school teachers, principals, police department, parents, neighbors, employers, and ministers give about your life?

What kind of a testimony is your life to the people around you? The government may one day check you out to see if your life is consistent. Whether or not you are exempted from serving in the Armed Forces will depend on how sincere you are about your beliefs.

Many people will never receive an induction notice. They will not have to prove to a local draft board that they are conscientious objectors. But every person will one day appear before a Holy God. II Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." How do you rate?

Brother Robert Lehigh

"COME"

"He that cometh unto me
I will in no wise cast out,
I shed my blood on Calv'ry;
Believe in me, do not doubt."

Redemption waits for each one
That desires Heaven to see,
And Christ will turn away none -
For salvation now is free.

"The spirit and the Bride say, Come,
Let him that heareth say, Come,
And him that is athirst Come,
And whosoever will, -- Come."

The Lord will quench your thirst then
With His free water of life -
You'll become a new creature
When you live for Jesus Christ.

He will forgive when you ask -
And walk with the world no more;
He'll be with you in each task
When you open up your door.

He will hear your humble pray'r,
Countless blessings you'll receive,
Cast on Him your every care --
Of His Word, don't disbelieve.

Follow Him, He is your Lord,
He is the Shepherd of His sheep,
You shall reap a great reward
If you all His precepts keep.

— Irene Stout

FIRST RESURRECTION

The Bible says in Rev. 20:6, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. Now, the bride, I think, means the Church and if we want to go with the bride, we are going to have to do as the bride or the Church says. The parable of the ten virgins tells of the ones who do as Christ's Church wants them to do. As I understand it, these will be the wise virgins. If we are in the Church, we might as well be wise members and not be foolish ones who will be left behind when Christ comes for His Saints.

Of the Church of Smyrna, John writes, in Rev. 2:11b, "... He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." And it makes me think of a hymn which says, "if I his trust betray, a second death I'll die", and another says, "what horrors hang around the second death." So let's be careful how we behave ourselves in this life, so we can have right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city.

The resurrection is very important for a believer, for without the resurrection our faith would be vain and we would yet be in our sins as the Apostle Paul writes in I Cor. 15:14-20.

I Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." What a glorious promise we have to look forward to, provided we have lived faithful until death. For the prize is not in the middle but in the end of this Christian race.

I think this first resurrection applies to the ones who are dead or have fallen asleep in Jesus, which means the same thing. The ones who are alive at His coming shall be caught up with Him. Then all the Saints who have died and the living shall be with Him forever.

The resurrection is one of the most important events for a Christian because at Christ's resurrection the guards of soldiers became as dead men when the angels countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow when he rolled the stone away from our Lord's grave.

Paul Fridley
RD #1, Lewisburg, OH

STRENGTHEN THE THINGS THAT REMAIN

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come unto thee." Rev. 3:2-3. In Sardis, there were a few faithful ones.

If we go to Church and hear a sermon and receive no spiritual food to take home, it is very sad. Dear ones, let us try to hold Christ up before the people who come to hear the preaching, so they will be able to have things to think of during the week, that will strengthen them and make them feel it was well that they were there. It will also strengthen us to fight off the things that are thrown in our way.

Many churches have a form but are Spiritually dead. We are known by our works. We must be watchful and strong. We must be always on our guard, so the things we once held sacred will not die. Let each of us strive a little harder, so what we do will please the Blessed Lord. All of us know no one is perfect in this old world, but we are to keep on toward a more perfect life.

Let us be ready when Jesus calls us to leave and go to a better home, not made with hands, but eternal in the Heavens. Eyes have not seen nor ears heard the wonderful things that are in store for those who follow the Lord. If we claim to be a child of God and we are not, it will be very sad for us when Christ comes to take His children home. We are told in the last days many will say, "Lord, Lord open unto us." But He will say, "Depart I never knew you." He will answer them, and say you honor me with your lips, but your heart is far from me. Oh, let us be ready and have our lamps burning bright, for Christ's coming may be nigh at the door.

Many profess to know Christ but deny Him by their works. We must be obedient and help the Church. Let us blot out the sin that does so easily beset us. We are to answer to God for our thoughts. Let our thoughts build us up, not destroy.

It seems, today, that sin is not dealt with as it was when we were small. Concerning the woman taken in that sinful act, Jesus said, "... he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone." So often we try to justify ourselves by comparing our lives with others.

I think we need more Daniels. Dare to be a Daniel. God's words are given us to make us stronger, so we can fight the enemy. God's Word will strengthen us so we can fight the good fight of faith. Jesus knows our weakness and is always ready to help. We all know our weak spots. We cannot hide anything from our Saviour. Esau sold his birthright but the tears he shed were too late.

We do not know what is ahead of us, for the future is hidden in His hands. But we are promised as His children He will pour out His

blessings upon us. When each of us was born again by baptism and was united to the Church that Christ set up, our names were recorded or written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Do we each stand firm on the principles of the Church as found in the Word of God? Does our daily job mean more to us than Christ?

Study, dear ones, to show yourselves approved unto God. We all have temptations, but if we don't yield, the next time we are tempted we are stronger and it is easier to overcome that temptation. Oh, how our forefathers seemed to have something we don't have. How faithful the ministers were, working hard each day but always had time to serve the Lord. Let us try to strengthen the things that remain.

Sister E. M. Alltus

OBITUARY

ETHEL SHELLY

Ethel V. Shelly the daughter of William and Anna (Hartman) Hager was born near Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, August 13, 1899. She departed this life February 10, 1985 at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, John and Edna Wisler, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

She was married to Emmert O. Shelly, Sr. who preceded her in 1976. She was a retired self-employed paperhanger.

She is survived by five children, Edna Wisler, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; Glenn O. Shelly, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania; John A. Shelly, Marion, Pennsylvania; Harry C. Shelly, St. Thomas, Pennsylvania; Emmert O. Shelly, Jr., Littlestown, Pennsylvania; seventeen grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren; six sisters, Catherine and Florence Hager, Greencastle, Pennsylvania; Iva Wilson, Cross Keys, Pennsylvania; Etta Snyder, Ft. Myers, Florida; Mary Hager and Lula Johnston, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

She was a member of Shank's Church of the Brethren where the funeral was held February 13, 1985 by ministers, Clarence Showalter, Roy Hawbaker and Samuel Sites. Burial was in the Fairview Cemetery, Mercersburg.

NEW ITEMS

1985 GENERAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 7-12, 1985

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held June 7-12, 1985, at the Maranatha Conference Grounds, 13 miles east of North Platte, Nebraska, on Interstate 80. You get off at the Maxwell exit and go 1/8 mile south to the entrance road and then 2 miles west to the Conference Grounds.

Those coming by plane or bus, go to North Platte and call the Grounds for someone to meet you there. If you come by us, DON'T get off at Maxwell, Nebraska.

Bring your pillows, sheets and blankets. Those coming by plane or bus, bedding will be furnished for you.

There are hook-ups for motor homes and campers.

Send your reservations to:

Bro. Jerry Moss

R. 1, Box 235-B

Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

or

Bro. Don Hostetler

Quinter, Kansas 67752

You may send your donations to the Trustee Board to help cover Conference Expenses.

Address of the grounds:

Maranatha Bible Camp

North Platte, Nebraska 69103-0549

Telephone: 308-582-4513

Brother Carl E. Reed

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is planning, the Lord willing, a Lovefeast on Saturday, May 18. Services will begin at 11 A.M. with the Lovefeast proper at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome. Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Carolyn Carpenter, Cor.

CARD OF THANKS

I want to thank each brother and sister in the brotherhood that remembered me with cards, letters and gifts and especially your prayers and visits while I was in the hospital four weeks and nine weeks in my daughter's home convalescing from an accident in her home. I also want to thank the West Fulton Church for making me a scrap-book.

All this was deeply appreciated and I pray each one will be blessed.

Sister Almeda Strayer

THANKS

Many thanks to all who sent us cards for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We certainly enjoyed and appreciated them all. Also the gifts and scrap-book.

Thank you, may God bless you.

Brother and Sister George Longenecker, Sr.



When Rabbi Ben Zachai neared the close of life his disciples found him weeping. They said to him: "Rabbi, the light of Israel, the righthand pillar, wherefore dost thou weep?" He answered: "If they were carrying me before a king of flesh and blood, who is here today, and tomorrow in the grave, who, if he were angry with me, his anger would not last forever; if he put me in prison, his prison would not be everlasting; if he condemned me to death, that death would not be eternal; whom I could soothe with words or bribe with riches; yet even in such circumstances, I should weep. But now I am going before the King of Kings, the holy and blessed God, who, if He be angry with me, His anger will last forever; if He put me in prison, His bondage will be everlasting; if He condemn me to death, that death will be eternal; whom I cannot soothe with words nor bribe with riches. Further, there are before me two ways, the one to Hell, the other to Paradise, I know not into which they are carrying me, shall I not weep?"

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

MAY 1, 1985

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PREPARATION

I am so weak, but the Lord is strong,
To have more strength, I earnestly long,
But if my portion in life be weak,
Let me ask for wisdom, yet be meek.

Lord, prepare my soul for that New Home
That I'll nevermore the old ways roam,
Let my affections be set above,
On Thee, and thy Word, AND Thy great love.

Let me be filled with a hymn unsung,
When I'm not praising Thee with my tongue,
With humble spirit let me serve Thee,
'Til some glad morning thy face I'll see.

How could I ask for anything more
Than to live on your celestial shore?
And walk on your streets of purest gold,
And live in mansions, their wealth untold?

- Irene Stout

TRAVEL MERCIES

The Editor recently traveled over two thousand miles to attend District Meeting. We had the opportunity to not only participate in the business meeting but also to have part in the Lovefeast Service. The fellowship, preaching and encouragement were sweet reminders of God's blessings.

During our travels, we may not only encourage others, especially those in small and isolated congregations, but ourselves as well. It is always good when the Brethren are together. To hear the Gospel preached at other places by other Brethren often helps us to resolve to do better.

The blessings of the Lovefeast are beyond description. We cannot describe what that service means to us. It not only fulfills New Testament commandments, it draws those who participate closer together. God gave us His ordinances not because He needed anything we could give Him, but because He knew what would be best for us.

After being on a journey it is always a pleasure to return home. No matter how enjoyable the events of the trip there still is no place as dear as home. The scenes of home may be very humble when compared to other places we have been or other sights we have seen but it is still the best place.

A successful journey should teach us to be thankful. Safety, enjoyment and a safe return should show us God's care for us. Our thankfulness should not be limited to the temporal blessings of life, for there are many Spiritual blessings that He gives us.

Life is like our journeys. God has His Hand upon the whole of our journey, but for His mercies we would fail to arrive safely.

God, the Giver of Life, at our conception and birth into this physical

THE BIBLE MONITOR

MAY 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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world also gives the rebirth. He has provided the means of our Spiritual rebirth by paying dearly. Just as the natural birth has a price in anxiety, pain and material cost, so the Spiritual birth exacted a great price. God paid by the crucifixion of Jesus for our sins. We must accept His gift for it to affect upon our lives.

To make a journey it is necessary to start. No matter how long or short the trip may be, there has to be a beginning. The first step has to be taken, the first mile has to be driven before the destination can be reached.

There may be various dangers along the way before the destination is reached. Breakdowns or accidents may occur that hinder the journey or even end it prematurely. This is also true of our Spiritual journey. Because of conditions along the way and our failures we may falter or even fail. Sometimes the weather or road conditions may hinder or even wreck us. Other times our own negligence or willful behavior will cause us to fail. In our Spiritual journey there are similar hindrances, some of our own making and some from without.

There are many temptations that draw us from the strait and narrow way. These things are pleasantly displayed to allure us from our purpose. If during a natural journey we take too many side trips or visit too much along the way, we may fail to reach our destination. Many things seem good and innocent, themselves, but when they become side trips off the Heavenly pathway they keep us from our destination. Other allurements along the way are sinful and totally lacking in goodness. To be allured by these things puts us in danger. They will bring the wrath and judgment of God upon us if persisted in. These hindrances vary from person to person but whatever they are, they are destructive.

Other hindrances are those that are within us. If it were not for the internal failings the external temptations would not allure us. These internal failings have to do with our priorities, desires and worship. The rebirth at the beginning gets all these things straightened out so we can worship and serve God acceptably. But we must constantly keep them straight.

As much as we enjoy our homes here, our Home over there will be even more desirable. Our home here will last only a few years but that is an eternal Home. All the problems and hindrances along the way will be worthwhile as they are overcome in our progress toward Heaven.

However our journeys are here, let us make sure we are on the journey that leads to a better Home. Let us each live so we can enter that Home, where we can more perfectly love, serve and worship the Heavenly Father, who has made it all possible.

See you on the journey! See you at Home!

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

today.....

We read in Matthew 6:34, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." I fear that too many people are trying to live in the past. It is important to let the death of each day also be the death of the burdens of that day. And, we are not to put trust in tomorrow either as it is vain to place your hopes in a tomorrow that may never come. Today is the day the Lord made for you... and if tomorrow comes, it, too, will be today. Rejoice in it, be glad in it. Live it fully, richly, completely in the Lord.

It is evident today that we are in the end times and it is constantly being brought home to us that destruction of at least part of the human race is eminently close. The world constantly changes suddenly and radically. We look on the nuclear forces which man has unleashed and they lead us to wonder if the end of civilization is nearing. But by the grace of God will these forces not be unleashed upon us. On the standard of the flesh we could cry out... where is peace?

But have you thought about the fact that your past offers you little help in the future? It is true that the values and principles you have accumulated will give you strength and a base of information on which to function. But each new day must be faced afresh... must be lived anew... and this can only be accomplished in understanding that you must be directed fully by the Holy Spirit of God and let Him direct each new facet of your life.

No matter what evil men devise for us, there is a light that can shine brightly within us. There is a freedom that can say, "For today, I am God's; He is my strength, and that is all I require!" All power is given unto Jesus in heaven and earth. (Matt. 28:18) The God who rules the stars in their courses controls my destiny and is carrying out His purpose for my life. Even the very hairs of my head are numbered! In complete confidence I can face this day, knowing that He gives me this present time in which to serve Him.

You can do very little about the forces of destruction that are at work in the world. The Prince and Power of the air is unleashing his full force and would desire to create a slavish fear within your heart. Will you allow him that victory? Will you allow him to take away your confidence and peace of mind? God promises to supply all of your needs each day that He gives you... if you spend it in Him.

Today, my dear Christian friend, is yours... and today alone. Yesterday is past. God alone knows whether or not you will be here tomorrow. But today you are favored with the gift of life. It is your real possession from God to use for His glory with all the strength that is in you. Live it joyfully, fully, in the confidence that you are Christ's, and

in Him, all things are yours.

Today... demonstrate love to the unlovely. Today... live righteously. Today... walk as Jesus walked, in utter intolerance of sin. Be sensitive to the place God has given you. Today... you can live because He lives.

Happy today, in Jesus.

Brother Leonard Wertz

BUILDING CONVICTIONS

The Lord's message to the church at Sardis was, "... thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die..." Rev. 3:1-2. The Lord's message to us is wholly uncomplicated. If we lose our convictions all we have left is a name. What value is a well-known name or a historical reputation, however honorable it may be, if today we are spiritually dead or dying?

A need of the present hour is conviction. A lack of conviction is akin to unbelief. Conviction is more than knowing or understanding the truth. A man may have a perfect understanding that it is wrong to steal and yet he becomes a thief. Why? Spiritually, he is filled with unbelief. There is no loyalty in his heart toward the truth.

The proof of conviction is in the life we live, not in the words we speak. "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" Rom. 2:21.

Conviction stands even when the chances of the discovery of sin would seem remote. Conviction will cause us to be obedient without the pressure of external regulation. The man that is truly convinced it is wrong to steal will not need a law or a policeman to keep him from stealing.

Our hope of preserving a faithful church does not PRIMARILY lie in strengthening external regulation but rather in our willingness and ability to perpetuate sound Biblical convictions in the hearts of each oncoming generation.

Our title suggests a process in strengthening and sustaining convictions. Consider what it means to build. It is taking various components and uniting them into a composite whole by a systematic or orderly process.

God is orderly in nature. The Mosaic dispensation was highly structured and orderly. Likewise the New Testament Church, although not as highly structured, is directed by New Testament scripture to maintain a well ordered body of believers.

Sound scriptural convictions do not often arise out of haphazard and careless spiritual environments. The quality of home and church leadership is the principal factor that determines to what extent convictions will be built.

What then, are the building blocks that are necessary for an effective conviction building environment? Certainly there are many important factors, but we suggest six which seem to be essential.

1. **PERSONAL PERSUASION** - Consider the example of Abraham. "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief: but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." Rom. 4:19-21. This is the cornerstone of an effective conviction building environment. Genuine personal faith or persuasion must be present. A minister may preach true words, but if he lacks a personal faith or persuasion, he will not be effective or convincing. Likewise, parents may desire to communicate good principles to their children and yet fail because of personal half-heartedness and double-mindedness. "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Rom. 14:5.

2. **OBEDIENCE** - The writer of the letter to the Hebrews declares the obedience of the faithful under the Old Covenant, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Heb. 11:13. Not only were they a persuaded people, but they were an obedient people. They embraced God's Word. They lived His commandments. We, too, must have a life-style that is consistent with the scriptures or else many of our off-spring will turn away from the truth when they witness our hypocrisy. The power of a faithful example cannot be over-estimated. One wonders how many children who grew up in Christian professing homes among us, are today the children of the devil because of persistent inconsistencies in otherwise basically good parents. Many parents look back with weeping and wonder what went wrong. They console themselves with the thought "we did the best we could", little realizing that it was not their verbal teaching that failed, but rather their example.

3. **BOLDNESS** - "Praying always... for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel." Eph. 6:18-19. Paul was a bold man in the flesh, yet he recognized his need for spiritual boldness. Spiritual boldness is not measured by how forceful we are, or how loud we speak. Rather it is a spiritual courage that does not veer from teaching and living the

whole truth. It issues forth from the Holy Spirit, not from the natural strong-willed personality. It causes men to be neither defensive nor apologetic of the truth. It leads us to be realistic with every issue no matter how much our emotions would cloud the matter. Spiritual boldness will cause God's minister to speak to every issue of life and not hide behind "safe" subjects that ruffle no feathers. Churches that lack in a bold ministry will likely have weak convictions.

4. **GENTLENESS** - Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit-led life. It must not be construed as a weakness. Rather it is a glorious and powerful virtue. One can abound in boldness and yet, at the same time, overflow with gentleness. They are not contradictory. Gentleness is our heart touching another. Gentleness leaves the message that we care. It is born in compassion. Gentleness in the heart causes the tongue to cease from harsh and insensitive speech.

Building right convictions in others is a delicate task. There is no place for coarseness. Sadly the lack of gentleness has left scars on many homes and churches. The father who finds no room in his heart for gentleness toward his family unwittingly turns his offspring away from a loving and compassionate Father in Heaven. The spiritual shepherd who fails to be gentle will discourage the flock. Sometimes the absence of gentleness is deemed to be a virtue, when in reality it is a vice that has chilled many relationships. "By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone." Prov. 25:15.

5. **INSTRUCTION** - The need for instruction would seem to be an obvious ingredient necessary to conviction building. Yet we find that all too often our youth who have grown up in church settings have little understanding in the whys and wherefores of New Testament doctrine and church polity. They have only come to see these things from the external viewpoint exemplified by the expression, "The church asks me to do it." Modesty in appearance and the separated life become burdensome matters. Lovefeast, feetwashing, the Holy kiss, the veiling of Christian women and other ordinances become simply, "things that my church practices." Sometimes there is little personal feeling and conviction in these matters. It seems that if outward conduct conforms reasonably well to certain modes of behavior, all are satisfied. Unfortunately, in the midst of this contentment we are courting spiritual disaster. Without true conviction we can never preserve an acceptable conduct on a long-term basis.

Instruction begins in the home with parents who have a godly concern for the welfare of their children. It is reinforced in situations such as Sunday Schools by teachers who feel a calling of greater importance than baby-sitting. Understanding of the Word is further enhanced by a ministry that teaches on a broad range of scriptural

subjects, not limiting their work to a few favorite texts and subject matters. We need to touch many bases in our preaching, including devotional, inspirational, practical living, current issues, history, spiritual warnings, and prophecy themes. Our motive is not merely that variety prevents boredom, but rather that God intended that the whole of His written Word be taught.

6. **REPROOF** - In our effort to build spiritual convictions, there will be times when rebuke and reproof become indispensable. When parents fail to reprove as they are scripturally commanded, they rear children who do not learn self-restraint. Likewise, in the body of believers rebuke becomes necessary at times to bring in check corrupting influences, both for the welfare of the individual and of the body.

Rebuke is somewhat different than admonishment. It involves specific incidents and specific individuals. Thus it should be administered privately rather than publicly. Ministers need to guard against the temptation to deal with one individual's failures from the pulpit. Also parents should generally rebuke and punish in private, not before others. Failure to do this diminishes one's respect as an authority figure. Scriptural exceptions to this pattern would be when leadership is found in sin and also in cases of public or gross sin. But again, these matters would be dealt with in congregational council meetings rather than in public preaching services.

Sardis was instructed to "strengthen the things which remain, and are ready to die." We, too, as we witness conditions of spiritual erosion, are faced with a demanding task of building convictions. Are we equal to this work?

Brother Dennis St. John

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1925

CONVERSION

Rueben Shroyer

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:1-4. The disciples at this time had a misconception of the kind of kingdom Jesus was about to set up or establish. They thought he would set up an earthly kingdom, and that they as his

disciples would be promoted to high positions in that kingdom. They had a strife among them who should be the greatest. They were anxious, were seeking position, wanted to be considered greatest. Such is depraved human nature. Those people who are anxious for greatness, for position, are not all dead yet. However, the disciples did the right thing when they took the matter to the Savior and inquired of Him who should be the greatest.

Jesus, the greatest and most tactful teacher the world ever had, set a child in the midst of them and told them except they are converted they could not enter into the kingdom of heaven, much less be the greatest. We therefore conclude only converted people are in the kingdom. Jesus taught Nicodemus the same lesson when he told him, "Verily, I say unto you, ye must be born again."

Those are synonymous terms. To be converted is to be born again. Mark this **MUST** be. The need of conversion is apparent. By nature man is inclined to go wrong.

The facts are, "the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be." Therefore this natural tendency must be changed. In conversion it is changed. I am made to believe this is the cause of the serious condition of the church. Too many in the church that are not converted. Be it remembered, however, these persons are not in the kingdom. They may be members of the church visible, but not in the church invisible. "The kingdom of Heaven is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

"The kingdom of heaven is that Spiritual realm in which God's people dwell."

Conviction is not conversion. Too many persons so believe. Conviction is the act of convincing a person or individual of wrong or error.

Conversion is the act of changing an individual from one state or condition to another. A converted person is a changed person. His life will tell; his neighbors will readily see the change. Candidly I wonder whether a converted person can enjoy a dance or theater, or a show? Whether such a person can feel comfortable decorated with jewelry, with fashions of the day, hair bobbed, and so forth. Really, I wonder whether an oyster supper at the church is enjoyed by converted people? I have heard of such an affair in a congregation of the Church of the Brethren. Wonder what will be next? Well, if conversion is so necessary one will naturally inquire what means has God given us in his word to bring it about? Let us see.

The law of the Lord is a means of conversion. "The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul." Psalm 19:7. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation to

the Jew first and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:18. Notice the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The definite article that stands there. That implies that it is the only power, not a power that would imply other powers could be used to accomplish conversion. Peter also said being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." Notice the Word of God is the uncorruptible seed. That must be received in the heart, before it can be possible to produce a new life. For that reason Jesus urged the Gospel preached. "The word of God is quick and powerful piercing to the dividing assunder of soul and spirit of joint and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Man is a tool, an instrument to bring about the conversion of men. Man's business is to sow the seed. Preach the word. God works through human means, human agency, uses men to accomplish his purposes. For example, Peter, an agent, a tool, to bring about the conversion of the Pentecostians. He delivered the message.

Be it remembered that an important meeting was held at Jerusalem at the time when Peter delivered that convincing sermon. Jews from all over the civilized world were there. The Jews had turned Jesus down, in fact, crucified him. They did not believe he was the Son of God. Peter, under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit told them they were guilty of putting to death the Savior of the world. His message was so plainly and logically put that they were convinced that he was the Christ, and that the guilt was on them; they were convicted and cried out, "Men and brethren what shall we do?" Peter at once answered, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

There are three important changes in conversion.

Change of mind or heart. Faith changes the mind or heart. Peter saw these people were now ready to believe. He had convinced them. So he told them to repent. They that would "come to God must believe that he is a rewarder of all them that diligently seek him." The Phillippian jailer, when he inquired what to do, was told, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," so the Ethiopian Eunuch. "If thou believest with all thy heart thou mayest."

Repentance changes the life. A turning around from the service of the devil to God. Surely repentance signifies a change of life. Some say, "Repentance is sorrow for sin." "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." But sorrow is not repentance. I will give a simple illustration: Suppose a brother would become intoxicated. At least be so reported. The brethren bring him to an account. When he faces the

evidence he comes and freely states, "Yes, I am guilty. I was overcome. I feel so sorry", and makes an awful plea. The brethren say, "The brother has repented, he feels awful sorry it happened, we must forgive him." The matter is settled. But in a short time the same thing happens again; he expresses his sorrow it has happened. Don't you see that way, matters can go on for a long period of time. So people deal with God. But genuine repentance is sorrow for sin, and a forsaking of sin. A change of life.

Baptism changes the Relation. The individual has been out in the world, now believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, has a fall out with sin, and is determined to change his life. So now he changes his relation by baptism. Paul said, "As many of us as have been baptized unto Christ, have put on Christ." "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death?" Baptism puts an individual into Christ, assures the forgiveness of sin, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, also puts an individual into the church. His relationship is changed.

I recall how in a revival meeting I was discoursing along these lines. A man in the audience rose up and asked permission to make some remarks. I freely granted his wishes. He made this statement: "I know I am saved. I know my sins are pardoned. I know I am in possession of the Holy Ghost and I never was baptized." I then asked him how he knew that. His answer was, "I feel it." "Well, says I, I wouldn't give you the snap of my finger for your feelings. Feelings are no criterion. If feelings tell the facts, then about all professed people are sure of heaven. Why, the Catholic feels all right. The pagan feel all right. The Mohammedan feels all right. Therefore all are saved." Well, the Savior on mount, when he delivered the greatest of sermons declared, "Many will come in that day and say, Lord, open unto me." The door is closed against them. They say, "We prophesied in thy name, cast out devils in thy name, done many wonderful works in thy name, but he will say to them, depart from me, I never knew you." Those people will have that awful experience, no doubt. Were all church members, in Jesus name operated, did wonderful things. No doubt felt all right, but barred out of heaven. The only safe course to take is to cheerfully do the will of our Father in Heaven. The Savior once asked, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?" We are warned, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." To sow to the flesh simply causes one to reap death. Converted persons "crucify the flesh, and the affections thereof."



Born once, you die twice; born twice, you die once.

SOMEONE TO SHARE WITH

#2

Some things in life are much more meaningful when shared with someone else. What is shared isn't as important as how we share and with whom. We share different things with different people, depending on the situation. Someone has said sharing multiplies our joys and divides our sorrows. Sharing is especially important in marriage because it is a mutual responsibility. One can't carry the load alone.

A good marriage begins with a good foundation. Part of that foundation is the courtship, the time of sharing and getting to know each other before a commitment is made. A good marriage requires a lot more than just being from similar social backgrounds, or having similar interests. There must be something to build on. Friendship comes first, followed by mutual love then mutual commitment. Without these three factors, no couple should marry.

"Marriage is for procreation, for companionship, for loving and sharing. It is not an institution which guarantees to satisfy every whim." Marriage is not for the selfish. It means a lifetime commitment to each other, forsaking all others. Marriage means spending time together, not always going off in two different directions. Marriage means sharing your lives with each other in a more complete way than you share with anyone else.

A companion is not just someone to live with. A companion is not a possession, whom you can treat like a piece of furniture. If your companion is nothing more to you than a mere convenience, a meal ticket, or a servant to be ordered around, YOU have a problem! Your companion is someone for you to share with from your heart, someone with whom you share life's sorrows as well as joys. Especially, your companion is someone for you to love, and give of yourself to.

Love is a two-way street, and it is not for one to always give and never receive. You must both have a desire to share and to give, whatever the situation. A marriage without this love and concern for each other means someone is going to suffer. A loving companionship is a relationship of mutual concern, harmony of spirit, and oneness of purpose, a blending of two lives into one.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things endureth all things. Charity never faileth."

I Cor. 13:4-8a.

Simply stated, love faces every situation with the right attitude. Love is patient and kind, not conceited or rude. Love is not selfish, critical, or easily angered. Love does not quit when the going gets rough. Because we are human, we won't always measure up to God's standard of love in marriage or any other relationship, but He expects us to try. True love seeks what is best for the object of affection, and this is love as God intended.

"Marriage is a unique love in which two people encourage each other in Christ. It is a relationship in which God has a part." Several New Testament passages liken the marriage relationship to that of Christ and His Church, or vice versa. (Suggested reading - Eph. 5:22-33) This relationship is like two people leaning on each other to hold each other up. Sharing, encouraging each other, and helping each other in serving the Lord makes a marriage very special. Leaving God out increases the potential for failure, so do include Him in your plans.

When a man and woman marry, they do one of two things. Either they will grow closer together, or they will drift farther apart. Either their love and understanding will grow, or whatever love exists will die. Their marriage will then deteriorate to a meaningless relationship. Love must be appreciated and nurtured, not taken for granted, if it is to survive and grow. Having a good spiritual relationship will help insure the growth of this love.

"As being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." This is part of I Pet. 3:7. If you will read the preceding verses, you will see that both husband and wife have certain duties. The husband doesn't carry the whole load nor does the wife, but each is responsible to God for his or her share. The two ought to walk together before God, and in no way be a spiritual hindrance to each other.

Someone to share with, someone to love and care for, someone to unite with spiritually is what God wants you to have in your marriage. Solomon said, "Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it." Song of Sol. 8:7a. This is an enduring love, the kind God wants you to have. If you are seeking a companion, first seek God's will in your life, and then let Him choose for you. If you are already married, ask God to help you do your part as you share your life with another.

Sister Eileen Broadwater



God should be the object of all our desires, the end of all our actions, the principle of all our affections, and the governing power of our whole souls. — Massillon.

OBITUARY

HARVE THRONE

Bro. Harve L. Throne, 92, Route 1, Alvordton, Ohio died at the Williams County General Hospital on Monday morning, February 25, 1985.

He was born in Williams County on September 27, 1892 and lived there all his life. He was the son of Alfred and Mary (Hollabaugh) Throne. He was a farmer and self-employed carpenter.

He was married on February 27, 1915 to Berniece M. Clay who preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons, John and George, both of Alvordton; one daughter, Marie Bowers, West Unity; a foster daughter, Nina Edwards, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; fourteen grandchildren, four foster grandchildren and thirty-six great grandchildren.

Also preceding him in death was a daughter, Margaret Rupp; a brother George S. Throne; three grandchildren, Ronald Rupp, David Surbey and Jonell Throne.

Harve was baptized into the Church of the Brethren and later became a charter member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, West Unity, Ohio, where he served as a deacon.

A familiar voice has been silenced
And the footsteps that moved so slow
Will no longer walk among us
In our journey here below.

Our life is but a vapor
As the grass that withers away,
No assurance of tomorrow
As we walk from day to day.

But oh, what a glorious promise
Of the life that is beyond
When our soul is anchored in Jesus
No gloom in our hearts can be found.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath not heard
The beauties He's gone to prepare.
We'll seek to do His perfect will
And hope to meet up there.

Services were held on February 27, 1985 at the Hollingshead Mortuary, West Unity, Ohio.

The Throne Family

NEWS ITEM

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation met for Special Council on February 23, 1985, at 7 o'clock. Elders Frank Shaffer and Allen Eberly were present to moderate the meeting.

Bro. Eberly opened the meeting with a hymn and reading Psalm 23 and prayer.

The voice of the church was taken by ballot for the election of a Presiding Elder. Bro. Jacob Ness was elected to serve in this office.

We rejoiced to have Bro. Virgil Leatherman and Bro. Emmert Shelly ordained into the Eldership with the laying on of hands and prayer in their behalf.

May God's richest blessings be on them and their companions as they feed and direct the flock.

All matters of business were conducted in the Christian manner. The meeting closed with a hymn and prayer.

We are small in number at Walnut Grove. Pray for us and come to worship with us.

Sister Margaret Dayhoff, Cor.



A preacher delivered a course of lectures on infidelity, and was pleased to learn that an infidel who had attended the services was deeply impressed. "Which of my arguments did you find the most convincing?" the preacher asked the infidel. "No argument moved me," was the reply, "but the face and manner of an old blind woman who sits in one of the front rows."



It is not the drapery in which divine truth may be clothed, nor the force and beauty of the illustrations with which it may be presented, but it is the truth itself — the bare, naked, unvarnished truth — that is the instrument of the Spirit's power. That is the sword of the Spirit; and it is the sword that does the work, not the scabbard in which it is sheathed. The scabbard may be finely fitted, and beautifully embellished, bound with the finest gold, and glittering with jewels of polished diamonds; but it is not the garnished scabbard, it is the drawn sword, which the Spirit wields, and which, when wielded by Him, is quick and powerful, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MAY 1985

ON MAN

Wed. 1 - Joshua 7:16-26

Thurs. 2 - Joshua 10:8-15

Fri. 3 - Joshua 14:1-15

Sat. 4 - Joshua 21:43-45

Memory Verse: Joshua 21:44

"And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them: the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand."

Sun. 5 - Judges 1:22-26

Mon. 6 - Judges 7:9-25

Tues. 7 - Judges 10:1-18

Wed. 8 - Judges 13:1-25

Thurs. 9 - Judges 16:1-20

Fri. 10 - Judges 16:21-31

Sat. 11 - Judges 21:1-25

Memory Verse: Judges 21:25

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every many did that which was right in his own eyes."

Sun. 12 - Ruth 1:1-22

Mon. 13 - Ruth 2:1-23

Tues. 14 - Ruth 3:1-18

Wed. 15 - Ruth 4:1-22

Thurs. 16 - I Sam. 1:1-18

Fri. 17 - I Sam. 2:27-36

Sat. 18 - I Sam. 4:10-22

Memory Verse: I Sam. 9:16

"Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people

out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me."

Sun. 20 - I Sam. 10:17-27

Mon. 21 - I Sam. 11:1-15

Tues. 22 - I Sam. 13:1-23

Wed. 23 - I Sam. 14:1-23

Thurs. 24 - I Sam. 16:1-18

Fri. 25 - I Sam. 16:19-23

Sat. 26 - I Sam. 17:1-27

Memory Verse: I Sam. 16:7

"But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

Sun. 27 - I Sam. 17:38-58

Mon. 28 - I Sam. 21:1-15

Tues. 29 - I Sam. 30:1-20

Wed. 30 - II Sam. 1:1-27

Thurs. 31 - II Sam. 12:1-23

Memory Verse: I Kings 8:25

"Therefore now, Lord God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

MAY 15, 1985

NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

"LORD, YOU CAME!"

"Lord, You came into my heart,
May You never from me part,
May I always do thy will -
Loving Thee, abiding still.
As I wake on each new day
All praise be Thine as I pray,
Guide my footsteps with Thy love -
Send down mercy from above...

Let me, a good servant be
E'er some watching, follow me...
My example, be their guide, -
Cast out worry, fear and pride.
May I show love, and not wrath
To all folks who cross my path
Then, when this life here is o'er
May we meet on Heaven's shore.

- Irene Stout

NOT OF ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION

The Bible is a unique book. There is no other book, no matter how good, helpful or entertaining, that has the inspiration of God behind it. Men may be moved to write their books by their personal opinions or feelings. They may be prompted by good to write, either to advocate some plan or to inform or educate. Multitudes of books are published each year. Even in Solomon's time, he spoke of the unending production of books.

Whether these books are good or bad, they do strive to garner the attention of at least a few readers. Many books are read by millions of people. Unfortunately these books are usually of a sort that is either light or immoral. Many popular books present an immoral lifestyle as normal and even desirable. Sacred things are made recreational and pornographic. The word "love" is used often but it usually means "lust" and physical enjoyment. Other books are written along educational lines. They may exalt nature above the Creator. They may promote men's theories over Biblical facts and teachings.

The Bible, on the other hand, presents God as the Creator, the Lawgiver and the judge. Jesus is shown as the only Saviour and the Holy Spirit as the source of holy inspiration and conviction. Any book that fails to acknowledge the Godhead's position, persons and power should be rejected. We need to be very careful about what books we allow to educate us even on Spiritual subjects. Writers often become infatuated with their own ideas and write more and more upon their views rather than what is in the Bible. Many religious books are dangerous because they subtly present error along with truth and thereby lead the unwary astray.

God has given in His Word what is for our good. Although we may not understand or agree with what He has there for us, it is for our

THE BIBLE MONITOR

MAY 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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good to accept it. It is a matter of faith for us to accept the Bible as His Word and when we do so we should be willing to follow its direction. Although His teachings are opposed to what we know and understand through human nature it is far better to listen to the One who has Created us and knows what is best for us. Too often we are like children who do not understand that their parents were seeking the best course for them. Usually children learn these things when they become parents themselves. God likewise seeks the best for His people even when they do not understand it. If we do not choose to follow His direction, we are in effect trying to teach God a different way. But we dare not try to teach the God who knows more about us than we do ourselves.

The Bible sets a standard for our lives which we must conform to, if we are going to please Him. It is far better for us to try to do what is better than to merely seek an easier way. We need a challenge in our living. Interpretation of the Word of God into rules for daily living is a matter for the Church through her General Conference to handle. The Bible often gives broad principles that need to have narrower application in our daily lives. If each of us chooses to apply these principles in his own way we soon would be going in many different directions. We would not have a united means of presenting the Gospel through our lives. Even though the means chosen by each might be as good as the other, still the variety of means would create confusion and disrupt the Church's work. So when a choice of means is made by the Church that should be the interpretation accepted by the members to carry Biblical guidelines into practice. It is far safer to have a multitude of counselors in a Conference decide the way than for each person to have his own interpretation.

These interpretations also involve another need in our Spiritual lives. We need to be submissive. We are to learn submission from the example of Jesus. He did His Father's will perfectly. We should be of the same mind. No one should be forced by threat or reward to join the Church. It is a voluntary choice of those who have realized their need for a Saviour and the fellowship of those of a like mind and need. Once the choice has been made to cast one's lot with the Church, there should be a submissive desire to do as required to remain as a member in good standing. When we promise to abide by the decisions of the Church it should be our desire to do so. Especially when young in the faith, we do not always know what is best for us. We should then realize that if we follow those rules given for our benefit that we will gain thereby in our Spiritual lives.

Hindsight is always better than foresight. Looking back we can realize that following the Church's interpretation is ever better than following our own private interpretation. The Word of God is given for our benefit. Let us let it benefit us to greatest degree possible.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"the name change"

You are a Christian. You have decided to follow Jesus and uphold His moral standards. You may feel so separated from your friends that you think you no longer have anything in common with anyone. We are sometimes afraid to get close to anyone and we totally isolate ourselves.

You must learn the reality and importance of being in the world without being polluted by it. You must understand that "the world" is both external and internal. You are going to have to carefully associate with non-Christians if you are going to lead them to Christ. The problem comes when you start copying the behavior of your friends from the world. That is something Jesus never did and you should not do. If you follow Jesus you bear the name Christian and you are supposed to live up to that name in every day conduct. If you are "in" the world and you have changed your standards to match theirs, then you need to change your conduct or change your name... from Christian.

If you are involved in any kind of sexual immorality, which God hates, you can't use His name. You **MUST** decide that you are not going to compromise your moral standards, even if it means losing friends.

Likewise, drinking is plainly forbidden in the Bible and is classified the same as adultery and murder. A million young adults in the United States have a severe drinking problem and about 500,000 are already alcoholics. How tragic! If you decide to fellowship with friends who are compromised and have lowered their standards to this low level, then you have to stand apart, even if it means losing those friends. Otherwise, you have again changed your name.

Drugs are another part of the world's scene for having "fun." They are totally forbidden by God and He teaches us that anyone who uses them will not enter into Heaven. If you use them, a name change has taken place.

The Bible also dogmatically forbids rebellion against your parents. It is classified right up there with murder and adultery. Ephesians 6:1-2 teaches us, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour thy Father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise." God expects you to follow what your parents teach you if it does not conflict with God's Word. Your independence is not next to godliness. And, this problem could require a name change.

We cannot cover the area of getting the world out without instructing you that secular rock music is plainly forbidden from a

REAL Christian's life. It is Satan's greatest tool of evangelism at this time among young people. If you are honest with yourself, you will realize that it has to do with the doctrine of demons. If you feel like you can't give it up for the most important Person in the world, then you need to change your name... from Christian.

I would appeal to you, as a member of possibly the final generation to live in this dispensation, to repent from these godless activities and get your behavior in tune with the Master. Never in the history of man have people been so wicked and yet so proud of it. They strut in their independence and rebellion. They glory in their shame. They brag about their immoralities. And you must remember that you were called to be different... to not be like a pig wallowing in the mud, but as a lamb, not able to stand the filth that clings to its wool, if it falls into a pit. If there has ever been a time when you need to say "no" to compromise, it is today. Christ will give you the strength.

We can't get out of this world until God calls us out. But He tells us to get the world out of us... then He calls us into His world of the forever family. He calls us to establish strong standards and though we are mentally and physically involved with people outside of Christ, we have to be separated socially. God challenges you to be different and to keep your name... Christian. If the words, "what will they think" keep resounding in your brain, counter them with, "what will God think." Give Him the victory.

Brother Leonard Wertz

SOWING AND REAPING

Most of us who have had the experience of farming know that it takes good seed, soil, rain and sunshine to reap a bountiful harvest. God's Word not only gives us some good illustrations about sowing and reaping but also what happened when tares were sown among the good seed. Are we sowing deeds of kindness and words of love that will contribute to making the world a much better place to live?

God's Word warns if we sow to the flesh we shall of the flesh reap corruption. By sowing to the Spirit we can reap life everlasting. It is certain we will reap what we sow.

The stony ground and wayside represent hearts hardened and filled with sin. There the good seed can not grow and yield a bountiful harvest. Tares sowed among the good seed can hinder and choke out good seed. False teachings and deceitful doctrine represent the sowing of tares. We are warned in the latter time false Christs will arise and deceive many.

Sometimes people become offended at the good seed, the Word of God. Many times good seed has fallen on stony ground and by the

wayside. We need the good seed, God's Word. No true Christian becomes offended at God's Word. Years ago a faithful minister of the Gospel saw the rising generation departing from the way of their faithful foreparents. He said we are slipping from the fundamental principles of the Gospel. As time went by, it could be seen that the good seed was falling on stony ground. Hearts, hardened with sin, continued on in sin, sowing to the flesh, which would end in corruption. For the wages of sin is death and the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Some years ago we rented a home from an aged man who had eight children. He named one of them and said he had treated him much better than any of the others. When the father passed away the one who had been very good to him was rewarded with ninety some percent of his estate. Often times people are rewarded in this world for doing good. It is part of the way of truth and righteousness. Doing good is the laying up of treasures in the Great Beyond. The thought often comes to me, how can children turn against their Christian parents who have been good to them and done so much for them.

The forgetful hearer represents stony ground. We are not to be forgetful hearers but doers of the Word. Often the way of truth and righteousness is evil spoken of. Many times the good seed falls on stony ground. They will sow to the flesh and not to the Spirit. There is a greater reward than any thing in this life coming to those who sow to the Spirit. We should be steadfast, unmoveable always abounding in the work of the Lord so much that we know our labor is not in vain in the Lord. It is an important matter that we sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh. We should not be forgetful hearers. We will reap what we sow. For whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.

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If you bring me minerals from California, I shall know these specimens have gold in them, because I see there little points of yellow gold, but I shall not know what the white and the dark points are that I see. But let a metallurgist look at it, and he will see that it contains not only gold, but silver and lead and iron, and he will single them out. To me it is a mere stone, with only here and there a hint of gold, but to him it is a combination of various metals. Now take the Word of God, that is filled with precious stones and metals, and let one enlightened in spiritual things go through it, and he will discover these treasures; while an unconverted man will see no beauty there.

THE SHEEP AND THE PIG

#3

"Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. The answer quite simply is "no." Whatever two people are sharing, whatever relationship they have, there must be some agreement. Agreement sends both in one direction, not in opposite ones. Walking and sharing together requires agreement and working as a team toward a common goal.

Marriage requires teamwork and agreement, with common interests, purposes and goals. It requires working together, not against each other, and sharing the responsibilities of life. Love alone, without responsibility and commitment, will not make a good marriage happen. This uniting of two hearts and lives should also draw both closer to the Lord, but what if one is not a believer?

No matter how much two people have in common, they are bound to have some discord. When one partner is a believer and the other isn't, or if there are outstanding differences in belief, this can cause even more friction and discord. But if they are in agreement spiritually and are able to share their faith in God, this helps to smooth over areas of disagreement.

No one area of life is left untouched by our faith in God. This is why God said, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" II Cor. 6:14. Our faith in God governs our thoughts, our conduct, our personal appearance. It determines our values and our goals, and we need to be equally yoked spiritually even more so than in other areas.

An unequal yoke means one of two things. Either one will be pulling a greater share of the load while the other sort of lags behind, or the two will be pulling in opposite directions. While one tries to go forward, the other will dig in with all fours and refuse to budge. A lot of energy will be used just in holding one's position, but little of value will be accomplished. This can only mean a strained relationship, to say the least.

Yoking a believer with an unbeliever is like yoking a sheep and a pig, and expecting them to function as a team. A sheep and a pig both have hooves and are mammals, but there is where the similarity ends. Their natures are totally different. One chews a cud, the other barely chews his food once. One likes green pastures and clean water; the other likes to root in the dirt and lie in mudholes, and so the list goes.

You probably can't imagine the two working together in any way, but it is possible. Even with all their differences, a man in this area trained a sheep and a pig to pull a little cart together. This is definitely

an unequal yoke, but they do have a limited, working agreement. A believer and an unbeliever can also have a working agreement, but there will be limits on both. It will require special effort to have a good relationship when values differ so greatly.

When we see two people become unequally yoked, we tend to pass judgment, especially if they start having problems. The believer already knows he or she made a mistake, and doesn't need to be told by us. What is needed is encouragement and our prayers. Unless we have experienced it, we do not understand their unique situation. Because of that, I will now share some thoughts from one in an unequal yoke.

"Well-meaning people often make the remark, 'You and your life are the greatest witness.' This may be true, but it seems like they're trying to shift their responsibility onto me. This really weighted me down, and made me feel like I was expected to be perfect. I was always on edge until I realized my husband doesn't expect perfection. He watches my example, but he knows I'm not superhuman.

Being unequally yoked spiritually doesn't mean you must disagree on all aspects of marriage. Even though you can't share your faith, you can have a good marriage in other ways. Just be careful that you don't fall in the trap of thinking you are better than your companion. But for the grace of God, you'd be the same.

If you're a Christian wife with an unsaved husband, remember the proper order of the home. Let your husband know he is to be the leader, but don't expect him to spiritually train the children. Until he is saved, you'll have to do it, and with the Lord's help, you can.

Keep the lines of communication open. Introduce your companion gradually to the things of the Lord — don't push! Explain your convictions and your belief that the Lord is over all. At times, you may need to make adjustments for the sake of your marriage, but you must not forsake Christian principles.

Pray for your companion in faith. Visualize him or her responding to the invitation to receive Christ, kneeling to pray and later embracing you in happiness. Picture him or her being baptized. Carry these thoughts with you, and believe it will happen — not if.

There have been times when I felt like I had been swimming for a very long time, and I just wanted to give up. If you get discouraged as I did, find someone you can trust and confide in, someone who will try to understand. Just take one day at a time.

You who are fellow-believers, let us know you care and are praying. Don't expect the believing mate to carry the burden alone. If the Christian wife or husband doesn't make it to every Church activity, try to understand. Don't judge; do pray!" (End of quote.)

"For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy

husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" I Cor. 7:16. Being unequally yoked isn't good, but when that exists, whatever the reason, try to make the best of it. As in any marriage, one can't do it alone, but with God's help, it can turn out better than it started. If both will work at it, a "sheep" and a "pig" can get along!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1925

UNITING THE CHURCHES

B. E. Kesler

The effort to have the various denominations combine continues, and perhaps increases in strength. And many of the writers and speakers who favor church union never mention a coming together along New Testament lines. Practically nothing is said about obedience to the Lord. Some who write on the subject go so far as to say very harsh things about those who do not favor church union as it is being urged these days.

But what men may say does not matter, for we must obey God rather than man. It would be a blessed thing if we could have church union as the early church had, for then the believers were of one mind and spoke the same thing. But how very different it is these days. The denominations differ from one another, and even the members of the same denominations do not speak the same things. A union not based on the teachings of Jesus would do no one any good and would do many harm, in that in order to unite with others some would have to give up at least a part of the teaching which they have been obeying since they united with the church: they would have to profess to believe what they do not believe and give up and cease to practice what they do believe.

We believe that any such action on the part of a person is sinful; for whatsoever is not of faith is sin, and to deny one's faith is also sin. We must keep our bearings; and there is but one safe Light to follow. Any other light is darkness. In things spiritual the scholars are sometimes more unsafe as guides than are the simple but faithful ones whom they scorn. We have the Lord's own word for it that it is not the wise and the high who are most safe. And when we have this word why should we worry about the doctrines of men? Men never did and never will save anyone: they are but blind leaders of the blind, for those who follow them and leave their Savior are blind.

Much is said about the waste of effort in keeping up so many

denominations. And it is a waste of effort to keep them up. But here again we must keep our bearings. Who is it that wastes effort? Is it the man who tries to hold fast to sound doctrine, or the man who advocates abandoning it in order to have union? If striving to get men to abandon the teaching of our Lord is not wasting effort, we do not know what can be considered such. Most of the people in the days of Elijah and Jeremiah thought these two men were wasting their effort, but that was far from making it so. And the same will be true as long as the world stands: no effort to obey our Master is or can be wasted.

If these men who are so eloquent for church union were half as enthusiastic and eloquent in urging full obedience to the Word of God they would accomplish good instead of evil; for to draw men away from God is evil, no matter what the declared purpose of those engaging in it may be. We must get it into our minds and hearts, we must teach it to our children as we sit down and as we rise up, that the Lord demands obedience. The man who hears and obeys is like the man who digged deep and laid the foundation of his house upon the rock; he is the wise man, the righteous man, the man who will be saved. And just the opposite must be said of the man who builds his house upon the sands of disobedience.

Each must make his own decision in this matter: your obedience will not save me, and my disobedience will not destroy you, though the example of each may have a great influence on the course of the other. Let us not become confused in considering this matter. We are considering what is necessary to salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to bring us the Gospel, to open the way by which we may reach heaven. No other man ever was or ever will be commissioned to tell man how to reach heaven: there is but the one name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, if saved at all. That is the teaching of the New Testament; and that teaching we intend to follow.

If men prefer to leave the right path, the only path that leads where we wish to go, they can do so. But we prefer to remain in the path which was trodden by our Teacher. Church union cannot be had without forsaking the safe way; and if we forsake the way of the Lord we have no promise of salvation. We are not considering what is most convenient or pleasant, but what we must do to be saved. The attitude which the church used to hold toward other denominations was much better than the present one, for it was in harmony with the Word, while the present attitude is not. We should like to see church union, the whole world of believers united in obeying the Lord; but church union without this obedience is a curse instead of a blessing; we want none of it. May the Lord keep us faithful through life and at last bring us into the desired haven.

BELIEF

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." II Thess. 2:13. Do you believe there is a God? There are so many in this world who do not believe there is a God, and that He has the power to save us. God is a wonderful help in time of trouble, sickness and when death comes and takes a dear one Home. He is always near to help us. What would a child of God do without His help? He says He will help us in time of trouble. He will never leave us, if we are willing to follow in His footsteps. We must believe He is the Christ and be willing to be born again so we have the right to be called His children.

So many today say, "I am just as good as those in the church." I have asked them to tell me how they know, but they cannot give me an answer. The Bible says faith without works is dead. "... shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." James 2:18b. Many people ask us what denomination we belong to. There is no denomination that can save any one. One must live the life Christ has laid down or they have no chance for a home in Heaven. How sad it will be if we miss that Home He has prepared for the faithful.

Take the automobile. It is easy to handle, but if we disobey the law when we are driving it we are in serious trouble. If we disobey the commandments Christ has set for us to follow, we, then, are not prepared to dwell in the mansion He has prepared for us. Dear ones, we must prove ourselves.

To get into Christ comes through water baptism, first we must repent so we can have our sins washed away. We don't have any record that the thief on the cross was at one time baptized, but he was in God's hands. That was before Christ shed His precious blood so we could be saved.

Look at the time when Jesus was washing the disciples' feet. Peter refused and Jesus told him he would have no fellowship with Christ. He was ready at that moment to have the Master wash his feet. When Jesus was baptized He did not need to be, but He wanted to set an example for us to follow. He had no sin, but we all have sinned and come short, so we must be born again.

What kind of a belief do some have today? We see so many churches that practice the Communion and call it the Lord's Supper and have it around noon. Do they believe the Word of God, where it says He had the Lord's Supper in the evening. After they ate the supper they had the communion which is the bread and then the cup.

It also says they sang a hymn and went out and it was night. Do these dear ones believe the Word of God?

It seems so very easy to find an excuse for some of the things we do. In Bible times, false prophets found excuses. But I read that the Word of God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The devil is trying but there is no way he can change it. The Devil knew Jesus, as the Holy One of God.

A Christian must have a firm foundation, one that cannot be shaken, following in the Master's footsteps. We hear today of the wonderful healing going on. Are their bodies really healed. How many are paid to go through the act? To me this is a serious thing. Why don't they follow the Bible and let the ones who are sick call for the Elders and let them pray and anoint them. We read then their sins will be forgiven and through faith they will be made well. If we follow Christ's way and if it is His will they will get well. If not they are now ready to go dwell with Him. We must stay by the Word of God. Keep on a firm foundation till Christ comes to call us Home.

Sister E. M. Alltus

ANYONE CAN GIVE A SMILE

A smile costs nothing but gives so much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble, yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

- Marie E. Hagain

Selected by Sister Della Ebling



True glory consists in doing what deserves to be written; in writing what deserves to be read; and in so living as to make the world happier and better for our living in it. — Pliny.

OBITUARIES

A. J. VIERS

Bro. Andrew Joseph (Jack) Viers, son of Andrew Joseph and Mary L. (Stites) Viers was born in Oakshade, Ohio on March 3, 1909.

Following an extended illness, he quietly departed this life at his home, March 15, 1985 at the age of 76 years and 12 days. On December 5, 1930 he was united in marriage to Sylvia P. Eby. To this union were born three children.

He leaves to mourn his departure, his companion; one daughter, Mrs. Lyle (Mary) Ledyard of Fayette, Ohio; two sons, Robert E. of Moss, Tennessee and Roger L. of Pioneer, Ohio; two sisters, Mrs. Jane Fleck of Willoughby, Ohio and Mrs. Robert (Mary) Zimmerman of Wauseon, Ohio; fifteen grandchildren and thirty-two great-grandchildren, besides a host of relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and four sisters. On November 17, 1962 he was baptized and became a member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church and was always ready to help someone in need. During the time he was on his sick bed he exercised much patience in his suffering and distress. His greater concern was for the spiritual welfare of his children and grandchildren, also for the care of his companion after his passing.

SIDE BY SIDE

Side by side we walked together
Up the mountain rough and steep,
Through the valleys deep with shadows,
And the mire around our feet.
Side by side we walked together
In the sunshine bright o'er head,
Abiding in His promises
And the blessings round us spread.
Now you've gone and we are parted,
God has willed it in His plan,
Loving thoughts and fondest memories
Will linger long throughout life's span.
You've been a loving father,
Husband, teacher, friend to all,
We shall miss you oh so greatly
But you answered to His call.
Side by side no more we'll travel
I must walk the path alone,
But we'll meet again up yonder
Gathered round that Great White Throne.

- Selected

Services were held at West Fulton by Elders H. Edward Johnson and Harley Flory.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation for the love that was shown in so many ways during this difficult time.

VERA MARTIN

Sis. Vera Marie Martin, daughter of Henry A. and Ida (Rittenhouse) Throne was born April 12, 1896, and departed this life at 9:15 p.m. on March 20, 1985, at the Bryan Nursing Care Center at age 88.

A homemaker and private music teacher, Vera had worked as a bookkeeper at Throne Monument Works in Pioneer. She was a charter member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, and a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

On February 16, 1918, she was married to Loyal H. Martin in Pioneer and he survives. In February they celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary.

Also surviving are two sons, Stanley L. and Carmon F. Martin, both of Pioneer; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death with her parents, was a sister Audrey.

The family wishes to thank the many relatives and friends and neighbors for their many kind remembrances and prayers during Mother's illness.

Should you go first and I remain
To walk the road alone.
I'll live in memory's garden, Dear
With happinesses we've known.
In spring I'll watch for roses red,
When fades the lilac blue,
In early fall when brown leaves fall,
I'll catch a glimpse of you.
Should you go first and I remain,
For battles to be fought.
Each thing you've touched along the way,
Will be a hallowed spot.
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,
Though blindly I may grope
In memory of your helping hand,
Will bouy me on with Hope.
Should you go first and I remain
To finish with the scroll.
No lengthening shadow shall creep in
To make this life seem droll.
We've known so much happiness
We've had our cup of joy,

And memory is one gift of God
 That death cannot destroy.
 Should you go first and I remain
 One thing I'd have you do.
 Walk slowly down that long-lone path
 For soon I'll follow you.
 I'll want to know each step you take
 That I may take the same.
 For some day down that lonely road
 You'll hear me call your name.

Services were conducted at the Pleasant Ridge Church on Saturday, March 23, 1985, at 2:00 p.m. by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Elder Dean St. John and Bro. Dennis St. John. Interment was in the Floral Grove Cemetery near Pioneer, Ohio.

NEWS ITEM

THANKS

I wish to thank each one for remembering me with visits, flowers and cards and most of all for each prayer that was offered in my behalf.

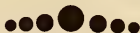
Since I wasn't able to do my work I've been well cared for at the Mt. Hope Home.

May God bless each one as only He can do.

Sister Mary F. Keller



In the early days of Ohio, a man who was considered a little strange in the head, and who seemed to have had no particular home, spent his time in wandering through the wilds of that new country, scattering appleseeds. Sometimes he would sleep in a hollow log or tree, and doubtless, he often wandered about without food or shelter. But he had one object, and that was to plant apple seed for the good of others, until the people named him "Appleseed Johnny" but future generations enjoyed the fruit of his labor of love.



Seeds are often covered with a case or wrapped in a bathing-coat, and may lie dormant for years. They contain in themselves all the nourishment required for germination, and, as soon as favorable conditions are reached, awaken to active life. Many seeds have feathery appendages, so that the wind takes them up, and wafts them far from the place of growth. Some seeds have wings and fly with the wind. Streams and wind carry the seeds from land to land. The beasts of the earth and birds of the air also scatter the seed.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JUNE 1985

ON MAN

Sat. 1 - II Sam. 16:1-4

Memory Verse: Job 4:17

"Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?"

Sun. 2 - Job 4:1-21

Mon. 3 - Job 5:1-27

Tues. 4 - Job 7:1-21

Wed. 5 - Job 9:1-35

Thurs. 6 - Job 10:1-22

Fri. 7 - Job 11:1-20

Sat. 8 - Job 12:1-25

Memory Verse: Job 14:1-3

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?"

Sun. 9 - Job 14:1-22

Mon. 10 - Job 15:1-19

Tues. 11 - Job 15:20-34

Wed. 12 - Job 17:1-16

Thurs. 13 - Job 21:1-18

Fri. 14 - Job 22:1-30

Sat. 15 - Job 25:1-6

Memory Verse: Job 27:19

"The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he is not."

Tues. 18 - Job 28:12-28

Wed. 19 - Job 32:1-22

Thurs. 20 - Job 33:1-33

Fri. 21 - Job 34:1-21

Sat. 22 - Job 36:1-33

Memory Verse: Job 28:12-13

"But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living."

Sun. 23 - Job 37:1-24

Mon. 24 - Job 38:1-19

Tues. 25 - Job 38:20-41

Wed. 26 - Job 40:1-24

Thurs. 27 - Psalms 1:1-6

Fri. 28 - Psalms 5:1-12

Sat. 29 - Psalms 8:1-9

Memory Verse: Psalms 1:1-2

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Sun. 30 - Psalms 9:1-20

Mon. 31 - Psalms 10:1-18

Memory Verse: Psalms 8:3-4

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

Sun. 16 - Job 27:1-22

Mon. 17 - Job 28:1-11

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

JUNE 1, 1985

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JOY IN SERVING JESUS

There is joy in serving Jesus,
As I journey on my way,
Joy that fills the heart with praises,
Ev'ry hour and ev'ry day.

There is joy in serving Jesus,
Joy that triumphs over pain;
Fills my soul with heaven's music,
Till I join the glad refrain.

There is joy in serving Jesus,
As I walk alone with God;
'Tis the joy of Christ, my Saviour,
Who the path of suff'ring trod.

There is joy in serving Jesus,
Joy amid the darkest night,
For I've learned the wondrous secret,
And I'm walking in the light.

- Oswald J. Smith

SACRIFICE

There were many sacrifices the Jews were commanded to offer under the Old Law. Whether rich or poor or whatever station in life, each must make these various sacrifices in order to enjoy the blessings of God. Their sacrifices were all dead. Some had been living animals but they were slain and brought before God as dead sacrifices. These sacrifices were to be the very best that the person could secure. God did not want second best nor did He want their garbage or second hand donations. He wanted and deserved the very best they could offer.

The same God continues to rule over Heaven and earth. He still wants the best. In fact now He wants a better sacrifice than He demanded then. He now demands and desires a living sacrifice. No more will dead sacrifices do. He wants a sacrifice that is more than just alive physically but also Spiritually. He wants a sacrifice touching every area of our lives. The basis of all sacrifices should be our love towards the One who first loved us.

As Christians we have partaken of the greatest sacrifice ever made. It was not enough for Jesus to leave the glory of Heaven, to be born as a babe, to do humble service to mankind. It was necessary for Him to be sacrificed for men's sins. God had to give the sacrifice that would reconcile us to Him.

As those for whom such a great price has been paid, we should be willing to sacrifice for our fellow men and our God. God gave although those receiving His Gift were underserving, the least we can do is sacrifice a little for those around us. It is never hard to do for a friend or relative but how much would we sacrifice for an enemy? This is what God did for us. We were His enemies until we accepted His love gift.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JUNE 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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What kind of sacrifice will He accept since He now wants a living sacrifice? He desires a sacrifice that costs us something — whether in money, time, effort or inconvenience. While money is often the focus of appeals for a sacrifice, that may be the least of our sacrifice. While monetary sacrifices have their place and fulfill a need, too often they become an excuse for not making any further sacrifice. People may give money and feel they have done all that is necessary. God may desire a sacrifice beyond their pocketbook. He may want an action from them that requires an inconvenience on their part.

The early Brethren were admonished to count the cost. In the early years at the time a new convert was to enter the fold the Scripture concerning counting the cost was read. As Christians we should consider the price of our discipleship. There is a sacrifice for us to make. If we enter the Church with the view of only receiving and never giving, we will be disappointed, for we must be willing to give.

It is not always convenient to give. The timing may be wrong, the price may be too high, the distance too far or any one of many other things may make our sacrifice costly. But a sacrifice demands a price or it is not a sacrifice. We can never match His Sacrifice but we may imitate it in our weak way.

Especially the ministry should expect to sacrifice. Often the idea of ministry is to "lord" it over the people, but it means rather to "serve." Jesus came to serve not to be served. Likewise the ministry is called to service. The ministry may need to sacrifice in order to serve. The age we live in may demand greater sacrifices than past ages. At a time when most members including ministers were farmers or self-employed in other endeavors, they could more freely go than today when most are employed by others. The sacrifice may involve a real economic hardship. But God has always had a blessing fitted to the sacrifice willingly made. Where the price paid was small so was the blessing but where much was given God could not be outgiven.

Many martyrs have sacrificed their lives for Christ. While we may not be called upon to pay that price, still we may sacrifice in a daily, continued giving of ourselves. This daily giving may in the long run be of more benefit than the one-time, dramatic offering of the martyr. Daily persistence demands a daily effort which is a real sacrifice.

What price are we willing to pay? What sacrifice will we make? We can never out give or outdo God but we must give what we can. What monetary, physical or inconvenient sacrifice are we willing to pay? Whether minister or laity we must sacrifice — it must be a living sacrifice. What are you willing to give?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

leadership

It is important that Christ's Church have strong and doctrinally sound leaders in these last days. We need only look at the example of Israel's tragic history to see where weak, lax, uncommitted and ungodly leaders can lead God's people.

Probably each one of you, at one time or another, will have the opportunity to lead in some way. But by God given, Spirit filled gifts, some are ordained specifically to lead the Church at any given time.

God given qualities for leadership might include several characteristics. One cannot lead without love. There has to be a strong love for God and also for those in the Church. This quality of love exceeds the normal bounds of affection, reaching deep into the agape love given by the Lord. Applying personal interests above love and trying to rule by power of personality or by force will drive people away from the body.

Leadership is not domination over people. Domination is not known in the kingdom of God. To dominate and feel elite are qualities that come from Satan and have to be controlled and be put out of the life of a person in the leadership role. Agape love does not dominate.

Instead of driving his people, a true leader "coaches" them. He motivates people to action through a sincere concern for individuals and through humbling himself as a servant. A Christian leader feels no superiority but becomes at one with the Body for the desire and purpose of achieving greater spirituality and involvement in the work of the Kingdom.

In addition, the work to be done becomes more important than his part in the work if his motives are right. Each person involved in the Body will carry out his or her particular part for the common goal to be obtained. Each one working for the good of the other... and all for the glory of God... must be the final outcome.

The real leader makes very little use of the perpendicular pronoun; instead of "I" he makes it "we." If "I" is used too frequently in a person's conversation, it indicates a proud spirit and a real lack of genuine concern for others.

A good leader is also an effective listener. You can't lead and direct someone if you do not listen. Communication is a key factor. Instead of keeping other people guessing and fearful, God's man in leadership works with others and helps them to see solutions as the Holy Spirit leads.

A good leader encourages! Some people feel they can lead people

with only negative input. It is the philosophy of "beating them into submission." A woman outside the church once approached me about how unified and committed a certain church seemed to be. She said the leader there "must carry a big stick." Far to the contrary, the man of God leading that congregation was exercising the gift of the Spirit to lead through working with the body rather than against them. His flock could "follow" him rather than be "led" by him. The Bible teaching of Jesus leading the flock is very important in the responsibility of leadership.

In any well-led group, a spirit of good fellowship and healthy confidence will be present. The leader enters into the hopes, the fears, and the plans of each member. He inspires confidence because through his concern and being in tune with the Body, he anticipates difficulties before they arise. He can be trusted to lead in the right way.

And difficulties WILL arise... Satan will assure that! A leader, in that case, must rid himself of self-feelings and work towards decisions which will build up and edify the Body. But, even in difficulties, a leader never functions on the premise that right is something he has developed in himself, the way he personally thinks or the way he "sees it!" Right is predetermined by God's instructions in His Word. Problem solving takes great courage and not ignoring or denying that a problem exists until it is nearly too late for loving correction.

God's leader is a man of reconciliation. He works diligently for peace and will give his all until it is achieved. He understands that conflicts met in the right way will work for strengthening and unifying the Church.

The great limitless power of God is there for the leader who walks with Him and chooses to let Him "lead in leadership."

The Church needs sound leadership. Will you catch the vision? Will you accept the challenge?

Brother Leonard Wertz



An aged colored man was once asked his reasons for believing in God. "Sir," said he, "I have been here going on fifty years. Every day since I have been in this world I see the sun rise in the east and set in the west. The North Star stands where it did the first time I saw it; the Seven Stars and Job's Coffin keep on the same path in the sky and never turn out. It is not so with man's work. He makes clocks and watches; they may run well for a while, but they get out of order and stand still. But the sun and moon and stars keep on the same way all the while."

THE REST OF MY LIFE ALONE

#4

"Marriage is often only a shell of shattered dreams and disillusionments. The couple prepared for the wedding, but not for the marriage. Marriage needs a foundation so there is something to build upon." Some marriages are set for trouble before they even begin. There may be immaturity, a lack of understanding concerning marriage, or their reasons for marrying were wrong. Whatever the case, this can only mean a lifetime of heartache and loneliness for one or both partners.

Reasoning like "No one else will want me" or "I'll be an old maid if I wait much longer" is wrong. Feeling sorry for someone is another wrong reason. One right reason we seek a companion is to have someone to share with, someone to love and be loved by. If a wrong choice is made, there will be problems, sometimes very serious ones. But if a right choice is made, it can be a blessed relationship. Two questions come to mind: 1) How can you make the right choice, and 2) how can you make the best of a choice already made, be it wrong or right? The answer is — you will need God's help. "Without me, ye can do nothing." John 15:5b.

Marriage is a physical, mental and spiritual union, not merely a physical one. To have a good marriage, it helps to have similar interests, but that isn't enough. There must be love, compatibility, a sense of responsibility, a desire to please each other and work together. There must also be a mutual respect for, and acceptance of, each other, not a desire to "remake" each other.

One who is loved, appreciated and respected is much better able to give his or her all in the marriage relationship. Disrespect, unkindness, a lack of compassion, any sort of selfishness all quench love. If you are standing there with your hands out, expecting to receive without loving and appreciating your companion, you are in for a surprise. Someday you will find yourself standing alone with empty hands, because your companion has been drained by your selfish demands. He or she may still be there, but love will have died, and you've no one to blame but yourself.

There has to be an awareness of each other's needs and a desire to fulfill those needs, if a marriage is to be what it should be. A husband who treats his wife disrespectfully, with little concern for her welfare, shouldn't be surprised if she is not fully attentive to his needs. Likewise, a wife who nags and criticizes her husband, who puts him down instead of lifting him up, need not wonder why he avoids her. Love does NOT promote such actions, and they only invite disaster.

Sometimes there is loneliness in a marriage simply because there is no true sharing, no opening of two hearts to each other in love. This is hard to live with, and divorce or separation may look like an easy way out. But, does it solve anything? Even though it wasn't the home it should have been, separation may bring more emptiness and loneliness. If you leave your companion, you may be the cause of a lot of heartache in his or her life. However, just being there isn't enough. It requires the efforts of both to make it meaningful.

Marriage is for the mature, not for the selfish and immature. If all you want is a housekeeper, someone to run after you or earn you a living, marriage is not for you. If your idea of love is what you can get from someone, you are laying out a path of heartache. You may be perfectly satisfied with the arrangement, but your companion who receives nothing from you will be suffering. A marriage can be destroyed by such selfishness, but giving to each other will strengthen the bond of love. Love can't be turned on and off like a faucet, and if you destroy it, only God can restore it. It is wiser to preserve it.

"She got married, but I didn't!" This remark shows the attitude of far too many men. It means "Even though I'm married, I can still do as I please. I don't have to answer to my wife for what I do." A marriage consists of two becoming one, with each responsible to the other, and both are responsible to God. (They become husband and wife, not just man and wife!) Unless, and until, we are right with God, we can't be right with anyone else including our companions. Without love and commitment to each other as God intended, it isn't truly a marriage. It is just a lonely arrangement, disguised as a marriage.

"Being married to the wrong person is like sleeping between two sheets of sandpaper. No matter which way you turn, you get rubbed the wrong way." It is very important to make the right choice, as marriage will not resolve differences. You will avoid a lot of friction and loneliness if you marry one with whom you get along well, love, cherish, and enjoy being with. It pays to be cautious in choosing, and above all, to seek God's will. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Eph. 5:33. You can't love just anyone this much.

What if you've already made a wrong choice? There is no easy answer when a marriage is already in trouble. You may have given your marriage all you've had to give, and it still wasn't enough. The whole thing has either fallen apart, or has become a meaningless relationship, maybe even a battleground. One can't build a good

marriage alone, no matter how hard you try. Routine things become burdensome when this sort of situation exists, but God can help you. Do what you must do from day to day "as unto the Lord, and not unto men." With His help, you can continue to do your best, and He will bless you for it.

Living daily with the knowledge that your marriage is a failure, that there is little if any hope that it will get better, is very painful. You thought you did the right thing, but it turned out wrong, and you wonder why you didn't foresee this. Berating yourself won't help, but seeking God's help will. He cares for you (I Pet. 5:7), He has promised you sufficient grace (II Cor. 12:9), comfort, (John 14:18), and His peace (Phil. 4:7). God understands your need, and can help you, so look to Him.

Do have compassion on those whose hearts are grieved because of marital problems. One who lives with criticism, opposition, rejection or indifference gets discouraged and may feel worthless. Those who are separated or divorced often feel looked down upon. Both need your support and help to serve God. When there is no encouragement at home, it must come from elsewhere, and it should come from God's people.

Being married doesn't guarantee loving companionship. People can be married and still be very much alone. Your Christian love and concern for someone alone or lonely can mean the difference between despair and the strength to go on. Assure them of your prayers and of God's care, for He said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:15) If you are the lonely one, trust in God and He will help you. With Him, you don't have to spend the rest of your life alone.

— This concludes the series on marriage. Quotes were from various sources. Your comments on this series, or any other articles are welcome. Include your full name and address if you want a reply.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1925

SHOULD THE CHURCH DISCIPLINE HER MEMBERS ON ADORNMENT?

J. F. Britton

I want to preface the topic by two instances: Some years ago a certain preacher asked permission to preach in one of our churches; some of the brethren asked him what he was going to preach. He

said he was going to preach the Gospel. Then he was asked what he would do with the gold question; he said, "I'll get around that somehow."

A young lawyer once asked an old experienced attorney the secret of success in the practice of law. The reply was: "When you have a case that has lots of evidence and not much law, talk evidence, hold up your evidence; when you have a case with more law than evidence then hold up the law, plead law." The young lawyer then asked about a case having little or no evidence or law. The answer was, "Talk around it." It occurs to the writer that that is just what many of our leaders, elders and pastors have been doing; they have been prevaricating and talking around this vital and essential requisite, discipline, until we have almost lost our church decorum.

Does the Gospel of Jesus Christ say anything about discipline? Does the Gospel say anything about adornment? We might ask the question should the church preach and teach faith, repentance, and baptism, or any other Gospel requisite? I answer in the affirmative, and substantiate it by the authority of the Gospel. First, the Church has the inherent right to discipline her members in conduct and adornment. Second, the Church has this inherent right by virtue of her organization as the body of Christ. Third, Jesus said, "Tell it to the church." This proves that the Church has her authority from Christ. Fourth, we have Jesus as an example for discipline: "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them." Luke 2:51. Jesus said, "The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." John 8:29. Fifth, the Church has a right to discipline her members, by apostolic command. (See I Cor. 5:1-7) Paul said: "I keep under my body and bring it under subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor. 9:27. And again Paul says, "For if ye live after the flesh ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the spirit of God they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:13-14. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Col. 3:5-6. These scriptures, with many others, substantiate the fact beyond all refutation that the Church has the inherent right to discipline her members in her faith, practice and Gospel decorum.

The word discipline is defined by Webster as follows: "Mental or moral training; education, subjection to control; chastisement; to train to obedience or efficiency; regulate, and so forth." Hence we have in the gospel, by virtue of discipline seven indispensable requisites to a full-fledged, rounded out Christian.

Suppose the railroads and the banks would become remiss and negligent in their rules with their employees. Who would want to risk their lives with the railroads, or their money with the banks?

Adornment

We turn to the law and testimony of the Gospel: "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up hold hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety: not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." I Tim. 2:8-10. "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter 3:3-4. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Eph. 6:13-17. These citations, with many others, set forth in unmistakeable terms the true Christian's regalia, paraphernalia and adornment.

There are three reasons why the Church should discipline her members. First, because it is a strong evidence of her faith, loyalty and obedience to Christ. Second, it is a means of conserving Gospel economics, refinement and modesty in Gospel apparel. Third, it is an agency through which the Church fosters a high standard of Christian character and excellency for Christ to a "present to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Eccl. 12:13. "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say." Luke 6:46. And again Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 7:21. (Read to the end of chapter.) And like Mary of old, let us secure that good part that shall never be taken away.



By skillful conduct and artificial means a person may make a sort of name for himself; but if the inner jewel be wanting, all is vanity, and will not last. — Goethe.

SOWING

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Gal. 6:7-8. Are we inspired when we hear a good sermon? Good seed has been sown. A farmer prepares the ground, then sows the good seed and expects a good harvest. We should also expect some results when we spread the good news of Salvation to the world. Are we reaping the harvest the Lord expects? If not, why not?

In the parable of the sower there are three essentials, sower, seed and soil. It is the same in our spiritual life. The sower has to be inspired, so he will be sure to prepare the ground well and see that the seed is good so it will produce and bring in a good crop.

We are to be aware of weeds and any thing that would hinder the growth so we can have a good crop. Today one has to be careful that the enemy doesn't come and destroy the work that has been done, so souls can be saved. The Devil is sowing tares, let us be awake and busy not drowsy or sleepy, because Satan is watching for a chance to come in and sow wild oats.

We all remember what happened to Adam and Eve. Satan must have gotten to Eve when she was not thinking as she should have. The Devil came in the form of a serpent. She believed him and ate of the forbidden fruit. Satan is always watching to see a way he can get into our lives. This is how he operates and he is doing a good job of it today.

I suppose Eve wondered if the Lord really meant she should not eat of that fruit. Dear ones, this fall separated them from God. The same thing happened to the Prodigal son.

Let each of us be very careful that we don't wander too far away. If we are out trying to rescue the ones who are out in sin, we must daily be on our guard. He is working in the Church today and we see so many who once obeyed the commandments given by Christ for His Church to follow, who have dropped many of them and have gone into having amusement and other things in the Church. Little by little Satan is winning them.

But dear ones, what is inside in the heart is what counts. We are to give Him our whole heart. If the Devil is there it will show. I believe the Devil found great joy in the Prodigal son's life. He was trying to find something that would satisfy. He realized he was not on the road that would lead him home. Oh, how he longed to go back home. He made the change and came back home.

Dear ones away from Christ, you too can come back like this son did before it is too late. When you do, you will be inspired and the

Lord will be dearer than He ever has been. Now you will have the things that you feel are satisfying and you will have peace. Dear ones, if you are out there somewhere without Christ, won't you stop for awhile and see yourself as you are, without hope, lost in sin and no chance to enter that home Christ has prepared for His children. Oh, the joy the Prodigal son must have had when he told the father he wanted to return. That is when the joy inside begins to shine out and started to bear good fruit.

Good seed was sown, but the enemy entered and sowed wild oats and crowded out the good seed. Oh, dear ones, come and find the Dear Lord today. Today is the day of salvation. "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Then Satan won't get a hold on your life.

Sister E. M. Alltus

HYMN MEDITATIONS

"While shepherds watched their flocks by night"

Near little Beth'lem town...

"To us a Child of hope is born,"

Glory from God shown down.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come,"

My "cup" is running o'er---

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow," -

For Christ, whom I adore.

"The Lord into His garden comes,"

(He showed me how to pray) ---

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire"

For those who walk His way.

"I need Thee every hour," Dear Lord

To teach me how to live ---

"Each step I take" won't You lead me? -

"Blessed Assurance" give.

Oh how "Sweet are the promises"

That are found in Thy Word,

And "How lost was my condition"

Before this Word I heard.

"Jesus is all the world to me"

I'll lift my voice in praise...

"O, for a thousand tongues to sing"

Of His works and His ways.

Then when I sing, "Where will you be

A million years from now?"

I hope that it will be in Heav'n

Where to my Lord I'll bow.

"Jesus signed my pardon" that day

When He died on the cross ---

"Precious is the Blood of the Lamb"...

My soul won't suffer loss.

And so, "A charge to keep I have"

(His Word to love and keep) ---

"Sing the wondrous love of Jesus" -

He watches o'er His sheep.

"Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah"...

"My soul be on thy guard" -

Since there are foes all around me,

Thy Word I'll not discard.

I know "Troublesome times are here" -

Love of many is cold,

Yet still - "Softly and tenderly"

You call lambs to the "fold."

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,"

It is for you and me!

"Jesus, the very thought is sweet"

We can, from sin, be free.

Oh, "I am weak, but thou art strong" -

"More holiness give me,"

Increase my faith and trust, "Father,

I stretch my hands to thee."

"My days are gliding swiftly by,"

Christ may come before long,

So, "Jesus, Savior, pilot me"

And keep me from all wrong.

"Brightly beams our Father's mercy,"

There's in store a reward, ...

So — "Now is the accepted time"

To come, and serve the Lord.

I'll "Kneel at the cross" of Jesus

And cast my every care...

"In hope of Heav'n I find relief"...

Of Satan — I'll beware!

"I'm pressing on the upward way,"

I'm getting nearer Home...

"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground,"

From Thee, don't let me roam.

"I don't know about tomorrow,"

But of this, I DO KNOW ...

"Life is the time to serve the Lord,"

For we reap what we sow.

"I need no mansion here below,"
I'll claim one in the skies
Where "Jesus has a table spread"
And "The soul never dies."
'O that will be glory for me" -
My labors will be o'er...
"Face to face with Christ my savior,"
We'll meet on Heaven's shore.
"The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can -- tell,"
"Safe in the arms of Jesus" — now
I can forever dwell.

Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, Indiana 46992

NEWS ITEMS

GOOD NEWS!

Five young people from Quinter have given their hearts and lives to Jesus and have been baptized. Sheila Hostetler and Wesley Miller were baptized on Tuesday, April 30. Kirsty Jamison, Rikki Swihart and Janet Swihart were baptized on Sunday, May 5.

As we rejoice over these young souls, let us also pray for them and encourage them in their new walk with Christ.

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to express my thanks to the Brethren, Sisters and friends for all the prayers offered for me during my surgery and recuperation. Also for the many cards, gifts and flowers. May the Lord richly bless you.

Sister Pernia Switzer

OBITUARIES

LOMA COOK

Sis. Loma L. Cook was born April 22, 1899 in Amboy Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan, the daughter of William and Elma (Bohner) Long, and departed this life on Saturday morning, April 6, 1985, at the age of 85 years, 11 months and 14 days.

A lifelong area resident, she had lived in her present home for fifty-five years.

In 1915 she became a member of the Hickory Grove Church of the

Brethren, and in 1926, a Charter Member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church.

On June 17, 1917, she was united in marriage to Elwin D. Cook at Hillsdale, Michigan, and to this union were born two children who survive: Arlo of Tucson, Arizona and Naomi Carpenter of Tecumseh, Michigan. Also surviving are six grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Roy (Mary) Swihart and Mrs. Elsie Cripe, both of Goshen, Indiana, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Elwin preceded her in death on March 12, 1978.

Services were conducted from Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, on Tuesday, April 9, 1985, 11:00 a.m. by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Bro. Dennis St. John.

Interment was in the West Goshen Cemetery, following a short service there.

MABEL HARMAN

Sister Mabel Harman departed this life April 29, 1985 in her home near Industry, Illinois at 11:22 p.m. at the age of 88 years, 9 months and 29 days. She was confined to her home since July 30, 1978 and tenderly cared for by daughters Martha and Flora. She was born July 31, 1896 near Astoria, Illinois to David and Rosa Mae (Brooks) Lind. On January 16, 1918 she was united in marriage to Brother Oscar Price Harman who departed this life May 11, 1973.

Surviving are three daughters, Sister Flora (Paul B.) Myers of Peru, Indiana; Sister Alice (Jack) Miller of La Harpe, Illinois and Sister Martha I. Harman of Industry, one son David Harman also of Industry, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one sister Clara Miller of Perry, Iowa, cousins, nieces and nephews. Sister Mabel was also preceded in death by one daughter Sister Elta Blythe, one brother, fourteen half brothers and half sisters.

At the tender age of ten she was baptized into the Church of the Brethren. On May 31, 1931 she became a charter member of the South Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church when it was organized, of which she remained a faithful member.

Services were held May 2, 1985 at 2 p.m. in the Shawgo Memorial Home in Astoria, Illinois with Elder Harley Rush officiating, assisted by Elder William Carpenter. Final resting place in the South Fulton Cemetery.

THANK YOU

Following the passing of our Mother we wish to thank friends, neighbors, Brethren and Sisters for your kindnesses, in deeds, telephone calls, food, flowers, house calls and prayers. May God bless you all.

Family of Sister Mabel Harman

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

JUNE 15, 1985

No. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

DEVOTION

Life is the time to serve the Lord,
The time t' insure the great reward,
And while the lamp holds out to turn,
O hasten, sinner, to return!

Life is the hour that God has giv'n
To 'scape from hell and fly to heav'n,
The day of grace when mortals may
Secure the blessings of the day.

The living know that they must die,
Beneath the clods their dust must lie;
Then have no share in all that's done
Beneath the circle of the sun.

Then what my tho'ts design to do,
My hands, with all your might pursue;
Since no device nor work is found,
Nor faith nor hope, beneath the ground.

There are no acts of pardon passed
In the cold grave to which we haste;
O may we all receive thy grace,
And see with joy thy smiling face.

— Isaac Watts

TWENTIETH CENTURY PHARISEES

During Jesus' earthly ministry, His most ardent opponents were the Pharisees. They were men of culture, position and political influence. They also were the religious leaders of the Jews. They were the interpreters and expositors of the Law. They had served a noble cause in the past but by Jesus' time they had generally fallen into ways that marked them as hypocrites.

The Pharisees were very protective of the law. In fact they were so protective that they had built up another law to protect their interpretation of the Law. Jesus accused them of honoring their own law more than the Law of God. They were very interested in the Scriptures, especially if they could mold the Scriptures to support their positions. These Pharisees were well established so they expected reverence from the people. But Jesus called them "whited sepulchers" because despite their outward religious appearance, inwardly they were full of deadness, spiritually.

Although they were the Spiritual leaders of the Jews they were themselves spiritually dead. Although they spent much time supposedly studying the Scriptures, yet when Jesus came they would not accept Him although He fulfilled the Scriptures that spoke of the coming Messiah. They would not receive Him; they persecuted those who did. They sought opportunities to trip Him with questions, for which they could not imagine any possible answer.

These Pharisees, beginning with what were good intentions, had turned the Lord's House into a house of merchandise. This business in the Temple made it a den of thieves for their original good intentions turned into covetousness and sharp business practices and finally into dishonesty. They supplied the animals needed for the various Temple sacrifices. This was a convenience for those who

THE BIBLE MONITOR

June 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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had to travel long distances. They also provided a money-changing service so all could trade the coin of their country for the shekels that could only be used in the Temple offerings. These were perhaps legitimate services but soon they became abused as they were moved into the Temple and as the leaders became corrupt in their business dealings. They no longer were interested in providing a service but in making a profit. Their profits were so great that they were unrighteous and oppressive.

The Pharisees were a real problem for the true followers of God in New Testament times. Although we do not have a group known as Pharisees today, nevertheless, they are still with us although well disguised even among many seemingly fundamental Protestant groups.

Today's Pharisees like those of old would make much of their sincerity and their defense of the Bible. Yet like their forefathers they have made God's Word of no effect in preference for their own doctrine. Although they greatly defend the Bible, they do not practice it. Like the Pharisees they have set aside God's law for their own for they find God's law not to be as up-to-date or as fashionable as they would wish. They do not wish to do that which is inconvenient or humiliating to them socially. The prayer covering, the holy kiss, feet washing, plain dressing, the Lord's Supper, Church discipline and trine immersion for remission of sins have all about disappeared as these Pharisees have developed their own law that is more accommodating to this present world.

The Pharisees of today have again made the Lord's House a place of merchandise. Sunday is not even sacred from their dinners, bazaars and bingo. Often their products are overpriced. The raising of money becomes more important than the Spiritual things that are supposedly the basis of it all. They have turned the Church into a merchandiser seeking the money of the world to run the Church because they do not themselves have the commitment to support their Church as they should. They are more desirous of sacrificing their Church's good standing than in making their own sacrifice for her good. To encourage unrighteousness to support the Church is to establish a law opposing God's law.

The charge is often made that the plain, conservative Churches are Pharisees. This points up the slyness of our enemy in shifting the ones from the guilty unto those trying to do right. There is a difference between obedience to God's will and in establishing a new easier law that fits men's desires. There is always a danger for any people to cross that line, even though they have good intentions to begin with.

Let us not be identified with these Twentieth Century Pharisees. We need to be careful that we do not become hypocrites in our re-

ligious lives like those of old. We need to be obedient to the New Testament doctrines delivered for us to keep. Their keeping is not only to please God but for our Spiritual good.

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

When we ride in a car with someone, we turn left when the driver does, and we turn right when the driver does, whether we want to or not. When there's an accident, we are in it together. The driver doesn't go in the ditch alone, and the passenger does not drive the car. Control is in the hands of the one behind the wheel. If a passenger tries to change this and grabs the wheel, an accident is almost inevitable. We have the same problem when we interfere with God's control of our lives.

God should be "in the driver's seat" of our lives, the One making the moves, and directing the action. He doesn't need any instructions from us or any "backseat driving." Our relationship with God through Christ is very personal, on a one-to-one basis, not just a collective basis. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5b. We are dependent on Him for everything in every situation. The control is in His hands, not ours.

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." Prov. 21:1. We consider a king to be powerful, yet the Lord can turn a king whichever way He desires. We are just as powerless in God's hands, and it doesn't make sense to resist God, to fight against the way He wants us to go. He is in control, whether we like it or not, and resisting God is even more senseless than "refusing" to go around a corner when the car we are riding in does.

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:23. God controls people, and dictators control people, but not in the same way. A dictator tells people what to do, when to do it, with no mercy on those who resist or make a mistake. He will tear people apart with his demands, but our relationship to god through Christ is based on love and mercy.

God will eventually judge those who refuse Him, but His desire is to dwell in us through Christ. We become a whole being when He indwells us in love. When Christ is within, He is to be in control of our lives all the time, not just now and then, or when we feel like doing things His way. Christ has a personal interest in us, and if we let Him take charge, we won't regret it.

Jesus had a special interest in Peter, too. "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen

thy brethren." Luke 22:32. Peter had a problem and Jesus watched over him. He rescued Peter when he attempted and failed to walk on the water, but Jesus didn't intend to just be Peter's "rescue squad." Jesus had plans for Peter, even though he had a knack for getting into trouble. He wanted to use Peter, and needed to be in control of his life. Jesus wants to use us also, and when we let Him have the "driver's seat", He will work out His plans for us.

God sends help to us in times of special need, although He has never been in the category of a fire escape to be used only in times of danger. We should look to Him for daily help, not just in times of crises. When a crises comes, we may not be able to cry out for help. Things happen too rapidly and we simply can't think. A good relationship with God should be established before the trouble comes, and then we can be assured of His care in all situations.

Several years ago, my children and I narrowly avoided a serious accident. A car had stopped in the road ahead of us and by the time I realized it, there wasn't time to stop. Unknown to me, another car was stopped to make a left turn, waiting on oncoming traffic. Car 2 (in front of me) had no brake lights, and stopped where he completely blocked car 1 from my view. We were car 3. At this point, I believe the Lord took over, and we passed both cars on the berm at 50 mph. There was no time to think, or to pray — God simply took over. His care was there, even though I didn't have time to ask for help.

There are times in our lives when we can't think or don't know what to do. At those times, God "takes the wheel", and does for us what we can't do for ourselves. This of course is conditional upon having a proper relationship with our Lord. He belongs in the driver's seat with us in the whole journey of life, not just in emergencies. God can calm the troubled sea (see Matt. 8:27) and we needn't be afraid to entrust ourselves to His care and control. He is able to take care of us and He wants to. Give Him the "driver's seat" in your life!

Sister Eileen Broadwater



Collins once met a plain man going to a meeting, and asked, "Where are you going?" When informed by the countryman that he was going to meeting, Collins asked, "What to do there?" "To worship God," said the man. "Is your God a great or a little God?" asked Collins. "He is both," was the reply. "How can He be both?" continued Collins. "He is so great" answered the man, "that the Heaven of Heavens can't contain Him, and so little that He can dwell in my heart."

DO YOU NEED "SPRING-CLEANED?"

As I go from room to room and clean this Spring, my mind is drawn to that of our lives. I'm finding dirt that was hidden. Had I not taken down curtains, moved furniture, or cleaned closets, it would still be there.

How about us in our lives? Do we need "Spring-cleaned?" Are there little pieces of dirty, secret sin, dusty faith or webs of doubt? Maybe we need to do as James 4:8 reads, "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

As we walk through this life we can remain dusty and in need of "Spring-cleaning" and others may never know. (We do know that our Heavenly Father sees and knows all things.)

Let us search our lives and clean them up while there is till time. Let us use the Bible for a handbook on how to go about "Spring-cleaning."

Maybe we'll need to throw away some things from our heart, just as closets sometimes become a collecting place and need reorganized. Throw out the evil things and replace them with the good things of God. Among these could be jealousy, hatred, lusting and pride. Let's replace these with love, joy, patience, peace, gentleness, goodness and a stronger faith in God. As long as we keep our lives full of these, there will be less chance of something evil taking its place in our hearts.

Maybe we need to open up our hearts to God as we open up windows and let fresh air come in. Let the Holy Spirit come in and freshen the smell. Walls usually don't look bad until we start washing them, then we realize how dirty they really were.

When we have one room in our house thoroughly cleaned, the rest of the house usually looks dirty so we keep cleaning until it's all done. Let's not just clean out one area of our heart and leave the rest uncleared. Let's get out ALL the uncleanness and not stop until we're done.

In Psalms 51 we read, "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me." I hope and pray that we will all "Spring-Clean." Just as our homes smell fresher and look better, our lives, too, will be brighter witnesses for our Lord. You know a dusty light bulb doesn't put forth much light, but with a little cleaning, the light grows brighter. So it is with our lives, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults." Psalms 20:12. May we each be stronger witnesses for our Lord.

Humbly submitted,
Sister Karen Blocher

IT PLEASED GOD

Through the foolishness of preaching
We are taught more of God's Word,
And we find that it is sharper
Than any two-edged sword.

It can cut lost man asunder
To his joints and his marrow,
And the sins he has committed
Can bring about such sorrow.

Through the foolishness of preaching
God will save those that believe
That Jesus was His only Son,
His spirit they will receive.

Sometimes it's hard to understand
Some parables that we read . . .
Through the foolishness of preaching
We learn of "sowing good seed."

We'll serve God with a humble heart
In the light of each new day,
As sheep that follow their shepherd
We'll be led the "narrow way."

And through the preaching that we hear
We will learn more of Christ's love,
Then when we ask for more wisdom
He may grant it from above.

— Irene Stout

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1925

"MY EMBLEMS"

B. F. Masterson

I just passed my seventy-seventh milestone, reminding me of the fact that I am near the end of my journey. Twenty-one years after my first birth I was born from above. I am thinking of the things that are nearest to my heart. David prayed the Lord to show him a token for good, because the Lord had helped and comforted him. (Ps. 86:17) I too, desire a token or emblem for good, because the Lord was good to me and comforted me in my afflictions.

Secret orders have their emblems, the Freemasons have the square and compass, the Odd Fellows the three links. They have it engraved on a gold badge and exhibit it on their person indicating to what order they belong. I belong to the order of Christ and the emblems are not inscribed on a gold badge but upon my heart and wish to exhibit them not on my person but in my life. There are four, the "cross", the "scepter", the "staff" and the "crown." I have chosen the cross because Christ died on it for me. Justified me by His blood and saved me from God's wrath, for I was a slave to sin and Satan, transgressed god's holy law laying myself liable, not only to crucifixion but to an everlasting separation from Him and his holy angels, in my penitent condition he showed me the cross and comforted me.

Again I have chosen the cross as my emblem because it is death to sin. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed that henceforth we should not serve sin." The cross is death to self. The greatest of all crosses is self and if we die in part every day we shall have little to die at the last.

"God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." The cross is the only ladder high enough to touch heaven's threshold.

"They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Whether they be passions for riches, sinful amusements, bad habits, or for fashion in dress, they are nailed to the cross. Someone said carry the cross patiently and with perfect submission and in the end it shall carry thee.

The "Scepter" as an emblem, I prize very highly, because my Christ holds the scepter in his hand that rules the universe. All authority is given unto Him in heaven and earth. "The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked and the scepter of the rulers." (Isa. 14:5)

"God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth."

Fifty-six years ago, burdened with sin, I came trembling (Queen Esther like, if I perish, I perish) before god. He held out the scepter of mercy and grace. I touched it and received pardon, for which I shall honor Him as my king. I shall wield my influence for his cause and exercise mercy to others because he was so merciful to me. The scepter is emblematical of power, not only in the hand of Christ but also in his disciples through the influence of the Holy Spirit. "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

I have chosen the staff as an emblem, because it is significant of support. It reminds me that I am a pilgrim and stranger and have no

abiding city here but I am seeking one to come." The way is stony and steep, enemies by the wayside and in the way to hinder my progress heavenward. Hence the staff for protection, to me it represents the word of God. Am I weary, I lean on it. Am I discouraged, I meditate in its precious promises, trusting theme. I go on undismayed. Am I held up on the way by spiritual bandits, such as modern theology with its camouflaged tricks, I give him a blow right between the eyes with my staff and he will flee. The German version says, "Strike the devil in the face and he will flee." (James 4:7) I found it so. As I journey on the narrow way I look out for the footprints of my master who has gone before, it assures me that I am on the narrow way. I notice that his footprints do not turn aside to be entertained at theatres, moving picture shows, dances, card parties, and instrumental music associated with worship, (which belongs to idol worship. Dan. 3:7) He had no time for it. It is all too cheap compared to the master's business.

I notice the footprints on the sands of time of our forefathers, holy men such as Alexander Mack, the greatest reformer recorded in history because he went to the full length of the New Testament teaching. His answers to the forty questions proposed to him by his opponents and the conversation between father and son, plainly indicates that he did not turn aside and the beautiful hymns composed by A. Mack, Jr., Christopher Saur, John Naas, Peter Becker, Jacob Domer, John Price and Jacob Hollar, these were among the first bishops and ministers. The sentiments expressed in these hymns gives one the assurance that they were not turned aside to the beggarly elements of the world, but testified that they were strangers and pilgrims in the earth, "... for they that say such things declare plainly that they desire a better country, that is an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he has prepared for them a city."

I am very grateful to my mother for inducing me to learn to read German by promising me her German Bible published by Christopher Saur in 1776. I have not only gained the Bible, but enjoy the satisfaction of reading the German literature of our forefathers. It is an incentive to continue my journey with staff in hand in company with my brethren whom I fellowship in the Lord.

What achievement have I gained in my passed life? The Lord knows how I have been tossed about by many a stormy conflict and by God's grace it is that I am what I am, looking forward to a triumphant entrance into the city of our God where there is in store for me the golden crown of victory of which the emblem is inscribed upon my heart in bright prospect. "Not unto me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

TO THE P.K.'S

There is a select group of young people in our Church known as the "P. K.'s. They are children of those Brethren who have been ordained in the ministry. They are the preacher's kids! (Please forgive the term "kids" but this is the common terminology used.)

There are many things about the preacher's home that should make it a wonderful place to grow up. There are, in addition, some things about being in the family of a preacher that makes it rather difficult.

The children of a preacher probably come under more careful scrutiny and are subject to more criticism than youngsters from other homes. People expect them to be "better than average", and possibly they should be! But this attitude does subject them to some pressures which children from other homes often don't experience. As a result, they sometimes rebel with a side effect that can ruin their lives and the effectiveness of the preacher's ministry.

I read of a girl who was a pastor's daughter who became angry over her father's discipline and ran away from home. She had been drinking and the man would not tolerate it. This father and preacher lost his respect in the church and soon resigned. The girl, like the prodigal son, had brought shame and heartache to that home. She hadn't been able to handle the pressure from her peers . . . even in the church. The problem, here, was not those out in the unbelieving world. The pressure came from within the church community which is very tragic.

It should be a special experience for young people to be reared in the home of a preacher. They should learn there to love the Bible and to love the Lord. They should learn to magnify the good and to minimize the unhappy experiences. The responsibility of parents in a minister's home to make it special and loving and to devote proper time to the children is a challenge, especially in the free ministry. Children should be able to catch from their parents the spirit of dedication and sacrifice which leads them to serve the Lord without consideration of remuneration. They must learn to stand up under some pressure of criticism and to do right because of it. (Protection from undue pressure by the preacher-father is also of paramount importance here.) They should learn the power of the influence of their lives on the effectiveness of their father's ministry. Subjection to his instruction and ministry must be learned and practiced.

There is also a danger among P. K.'s of riding along with the tide. The spritual atmosphere of such a home can carry a young person along with it. The youth just drifts into church activities, goes along with Bible reading and prayer as a matter of course and not

conviction. Sometimes there is not a real commitment made, a real heart change experienced . . . only mental assent. Then as time goes on, rebellion rises in the unconverted heart. (A minister's first obligation is to convert and teach his own children.)

To the young P. K., I would encourage you, instead of complaining because you don't have everything everybody else has, to count your blessings. God has given you this Christian environment. Your parents love the Lord enough to want to serve Him as fully as possible. Thank God for your rich spiritual heritage. And, if you are having difficulty saying "thank you" to the Lord for these blessings, you possibly need a personality and Spiritual emotion checkup. Live up to God's expectations for your life and reap a life of happiness and healthy spiritual adjustment.

Brother Leonard Wertz

WHY DOES GOD PERMIT SUFFERING?

Many times we have been asked, "Why does God allow His children to suffer." When we think of the suffering of those Saints of old who went through much sorrow, and of our blessed Lord who suffered for all our sins, who are we that we should escape the small afflictions that have come our way in life?

The problem of the suffering of the innocent is older than Job. When we or society disobey God's law of health, we can expect sickness and suffering that goes with it. Incurable diseases, unavoidable accidents, premature deaths of all kinds serve to remind us that life is a gift of God which we hold as a sacred trust until He chooses to call us home.

When we find no cause and hence see no reason for our suffering, we can still let the experience serve to glorify God. The man born blind did not suffer blindness because he had sinned nor because of his parents' sin, but "that the works of God should be made manifest in him." (John 8:3) There is no convincing, satisfying answer to the question of innocent suffering. It remains a mystery. But suffering has been and can be the occasion for coming into deeper fellowship with God and a more sympathetic understanding of mankind. The sickness, the sorrow, the suffering which has entered our lives can equip us for helping and strengthening others, that "We may be able to comfort them which are in trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Cor. 1:4)

Repeatedly we have been reminded that far more important than what we suffer is how we suffer: how we use that experience, how it affects us, what we do as a result of it. Martin Luther, while fighting on behalf of freedom of conscience, was hampered by gravel, headache and earache. John Calvin suffered such violent migraine

attacks and gout that he could scarcely crawl from bed to writing table. Handicapped, defective, deformed bodies have challenged valiant souls, in the words of Paul Scherer, "to weave life's defeats into battleflags and made them to wave in the winds of misfortune."

LORD, TAKE AWAY PAIN

The cry of Man's anguish went up unto God,
"Lord, take away pain!
The shadow that darkens the world Thou hast made:
The close-coiling chain
That strangles the heart; the burden that weighs on the wings
that would soar --
Lord, take away from the world Thou hast made,
That it love Thee the more!" --
Then answered the Lord to the cry of His world;
"Shall I take away pain,
And with it the power of the soul to endure,
Made strong by the strain?
Shall I take away pity, that knits heart to heart,
And sacrifice high?
Will ye lose all your heroes that lift from the fire
White brows to the sky?
Shall I take away love, that redeems with a price,
And smiles at its loss?
Can ye spare from your lives that would climb unto mine
The Christ on His Cross?"

- Selected
Sister Virgie Rio
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REDEEMED

There is a song we often sing, "When All Redeemed Singers Get Home." I am wondering just what it will be like, when all the redeemed get Home. I am sure there is nothing greater than that time. The songs we sing often have a lasting impression on our lives.

God knew us before we were born. He also knew we needed to be redeemed. He looked down upon mankind lost in sin. If we lose something, we try to get it back or redeem it. So, God is trying to redeem that which was lost. He went to the cross of Calvary to redeem us. Can we redeem ourselves with money or good works? There is only one way we can be redeemed and that is by the cross, through His Word.

We read where Jesus told Nicodemus "Ye must be born again." I don't think there is any other way. The redeemed are those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and made ready. If you are in bondage, why not let the blood of Jesus Christ set you free?

How many of us really love the Lord? We know He loved us because He died on Calvary to redeem each and every soul willing to accept Him. Are we willing to let Christ take hold of our lives and make a new person out of us? Do we really express our love for Him, knowing that it is only through Him we have been redeemed?

If we are redeemed, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and His fruits in our lives will show. We will be more kind, more loving and lend a hand to those in need. I wonder as we gather at Church or Conference and meet with those who are outside the ark of safety, do they really feel we have been redeemed? If they need help, some food or a ride, would we help them, or are we just concerned about ourselves? Do we love the poor ones in our Church as we feel Christ would have us do? Do you practice the golden rule? Many times I am made to wonder about these things. We are to help those who need help. I am sure if we do these things, the Lord will richly bless us. Do we feel we are better than another Sister or Brother? If we are redeemed we will not find any of these things in His Church. Where would we be today if Jesus had not offered us the way of salvation? Oh, how wonderful it is to be redeemed from the hands of the enemy. So many today think there is a way out.

Not long ago an aged man came to my home and asked "Why do you waste your time going to Church?" I said, "Because I love the Lord and want a Home hereafter." "You know when you die that is the end, just like the pets when they die," He said. I said, "You are wrong. Don't you have a Bible so you are able to see that there is a place for the righteous and a place for the ungodly?" He replied, "I don't need a minister. Not now or when I die. I will be cremated at once and no funeral and that is the end." I said, "I am sorry for you because there is going to be a judgment day, then you will pay dearly for not following Christ." He said, "There is no such person." Just three months to the day he passed away and nobody would have known about it if they had not seen the undertaker take him. This was a sad thing but he is not the only one who believes that way. It is sad these people can't be helped. I know they do not enjoy this life like a Christian does. I pray those who are out in the world of sin can be rescued before it is too late.

Sister E. M. Alltus

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

God's Word says thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. We are living in a time when the spirit of self-concern exists. Often I have heard the remark people are not like they were many years ago when neighbors would visit each other, especially were they concerned about the ill. Love is the fulfillment of God's law. When Paul spake of the witness he said the greatest is charity. We are not to love only in tongue but also in deeds.

The changes from the past to this generation are not for the better. If we want to make our country a better place to live in, we must accept the Commandments of the saving Gospel of Christ. God's Word tells us in the latter times the love of many shall wax cold. Many things are coming into fulfillment concerning the second coming of Christ. Are we ready for that coming if we have no love for others? Paul says if we have not charity we have nothing. We have seen in our lifetime, many changes take place not for the better but for the worse.

Envy exists among families and professing Christians instead of love as commanded in the saving Gospel of Christ. Envy and hatred leads to strife and sometimes to murder. True Christianity does not exist among those who engage in these evils. Those who are qualified with Christian love are laboring to make this world a better place in which to live.

Are we a bright and shining light in this dark and sinful world? Christ said love one another as I have loved you. He loved us so much He gave His life for our redemption. We are living in a time when many professing Christian's lights have gone out. "Jesus is the light of the world. Come to the light, it is shining for thee." Have we accepted Christ's example and extended it to others? I remember many years ago when Father and Mother did visit others especially the ill and were much concerned about their well being and how they were getting along. Today, where is the good example of our faithful foreparents?

Have we faithfully accepted the faith once and for all delivered to the saints as our faithful foreparents did? We need to do so to be prepared for Christ's return. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth but if the salt hath lost its savor it is henceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and be trodden under the foot of men." Today is the day to be prepared for eternity. We have no promise of tomorrow. Christ said, "When I come again will I find faith on earth?" Broad is the way and wide is the gate that leads to destruction and many there be that go in thereat. Narrow is the way that leads to eternal glory and few there be that find it. Have we found the way of truth and righteousness?

Brother J. F. Marks
Rt. 9, Box 860, Plant City, FL

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

In Matthew 24:29, it says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light . . . and the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Matthew 24:31 says, "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." I understand this means immediately after the Great tribulation He is coming to gather His saints which I think is the first resurrection. Some claim He is coming for His saints before the Great Tribulation. Matthew 24 doesn't read that way to me.

Let's be careful how we interpret the scriptures. There are a lot of different opinions going around these days. Take heed to thyself and the doctrine, both save thyself and them that hear thee. If He would come before the Great Tribulation it would save us a lot of trouble. Maybe it won't be that way, so we might prepare ourselves for persecution, so we will be able to stand in that day. Let's be ready, we don't know when the Son of Man cometh.

Paul Fridley
RD #1, Lewisburg, Ohio

NEWS ITEMS

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Congregation is looking forward to having Elder Edward Johnson with us for a ten day revival, beginning July 12 and to continue to July 21, 1985. All are welcome to come and enjoy these services with us. Please pray for these meetings and the speaker that God's Will be done.

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

PRAYER REQUEST

The first part of May I was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery. Was discharged in two weeks and now receiving medical treatment. We ask your prayers in our behalf.

Brother J. F. Marks

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JULY 1985

ON MAN

Memory Verse Psalms 84:5, 12

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them." "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

Mon. 1 - Psalms 22:1-31

Tues. 2 - Psalms 25:1-22

Wed. 3 - Psalms 34:1-22

Thurs. 4 - Psalms 38:1-22

Fri. 5 - Psalms 39:1-13

Sat. 6 - Psalms 40:1-17

Memory Verse: Psalms 25:12-13

"What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth."

Sun. 7 - Psalms 43:1-5

Mon. 8 - Psalms 49:1-20

Tues. 9 - Psalms 52:1-7

Wed. 10 - Psalms 5:1-23

Thurs. 11 - Psalms 56:1-13

Fri. 12 - Psalms 58:1-11

Sat. 13 - Psalms 60:1-12

Memory verse: Psalms 39:6

"Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them."

Sun. 14 - Psalms 62:1-12

Mon. 15 - Psalms 65:1-13

Tues. 16 - Psalms 66:1-20

Wed. 17 - Psalms 71:1-24

Thurs. 18 - Psalms 74:1-23

Fri. 19 - Psalms 76:1-12

Sat. 20 - Psalms 78:1-29

Memory Verse: Psalms 40:4

"Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."

Sun. 21 - Psalms 80:1-19

Mon. 22 - Psalms 84:1-12

Tues. 23 - Psalms 87:1-7

Wed. 24 - Psalms 88:1-18

Thurs. 25 - Psalms 92:1-15

Fri. 26 - Psalms 94:1-23

Sat. 27 - Psalms 103:1-22

Memory Verse: Psalms 49:12

"Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish."

Sun. 28 - Psalms 104:1-35

Mon. 29 - Psalms 105:1-15

Tues. 30 - Psalms 109:1-31

Wed. 31 - Psalms 112: 1-10

Memory Verse: Psalms 65:4

"Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

JULY 1, 1985

NO. 13

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD OF OUR FATHERS

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor thru the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay,
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, land and praise be ever Thine.

- Daniel C. Roberts

PATRIOTISM

The Fourth of July is the greatest of our national patriotic holidays. It celebrates the beginning of our nation's independence.

We should all be thankful for the privileges we enjoy as citizens of this land. We have privileges and enjoyments that are unknown in most of the world. Not only do we have material and temporal advantages, but we also enjoy freedoms that should be for our Spiritual good.

As we review our nation's history we can see the blessings that have come to us by the Hand of God. We should never forget that every privilege and freedom ultimately comes from God and not from the government. Our civil government is a channel that God uses to protect, encourage and help Christians. Its purpose is to provide an atmosphere where good can be done and evil restrained. In return we are to be good citizens by praying for our leaders, paying our taxes and living exemplary lives. This is the best kind of citizenship. It is better than being actively involved in political activities, so heavily stressed by the government and many religious organizations.

Fulfilling our Biblical duties will be of greater preserving quality than all the demonstrations, campaigns and voting that we can engage in. The best Christian is the best citizen. The Christian does not need to meddle in the political or social affairs of the world to be effective. He needs, instead, to live a consistent, conservative, Biblical life. That will preserve the nation and show a standard for good living to those around. The world's standard is one of compromise but the Christian has a standard based on the Word of God.

In considering our history we may become too interested in the wrong details of the past. The world about us would gladly ignore or at best barely acknowledge the role God has played in the establish-

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JULY 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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ment and continuation of our country. We dare not forget the freedoms and opportunities offered to our forefathers, if they would leave all in their homeland, brave the dangerous and long journey across the sea and labor diligently to carve out a new life in a New World. They suffered and came not merely for economic or social advantages but so they could worship God according to His Will in the relative freedom they would have in a nearly uninhabited wilderness. This is often overlooked in our study of American History.

Too often we emphasize the political and military history of our nation. This is what interests the world. Christians often become convinced to praise politics and arms for our advantages rather than praising God. We are apt, even as non-resistant Christians, to praise military prowess and daring for establishing and keeping our nation. We are fascinated by the Revolutionary and Civil Wars in particular. Often we heap as much praise upon those who fought as those around us. Our non-resistant principals are fine as long as they keep us out of military service but are forgotten as we praise and dignify the deeds of armies.

All the wars the United States has been involved in have harmed us. The general sacrifices called for in wartime have made inconveniences for God's people as well as for those wanting to fight. Another harm is the relaxed moral condition that is prevalent during wartime. Every citizen is a loser when a nation's morals are loosened.

Too often Christians like the surrounding society, equate fighting with freedom. They tend to be forgetful of the teaching of the New Testament upon the subject of non-resistance. When Christians have suffered because of their abhorrence of war it is ironic that today their Christian descendants praise the soldiers who often persecuted them. For those who profess to be of the same faith as Christopher Sauer or John Kline it is inconsistent to hear them heap praise upon the armies that fought those wars.

Our view of these past conflicts should be colored by our faith in God. If we believe that our freedoms and material blessings were secured by the success of carnal arms then we will praise the soldiers of wars past and present. This reveals a reliance upon the arm of man and his mental and physical prowess. If we, instead, see our national blessings coming from God, we will praise Him.

We may enjoy studying our national history but we need to look at these events aright. We must exalt God for what we have. It will not be an honor to Him if we exalt the military might of men. Their strength did not secure these blessings. They came to us from God.

Be a true patriot. Live a Christian life. Pray for your rulers. Give God the glory and honor.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Radio Preachers"

We, as Christian people, in search for "radio entertainment," have allowed ourselves to become too involved with the modern preachers of our time. We feel this is a viable alternative to the secular stations which are obviously saturating people with sinful sounds. Could the widespread misunderstanding that this type of programming is harmless be compromise?

If we are to analyze the minister preaching to us from the other side of the microphone, could we evaluate him as a man rebelling against God in that he knows what the Bible says and then deliberately does the opposite? Could he be tickling the ears of his listeners and leading them away into his same sin, compounding the evil?

If we study II Cor. 6:14-18 and II John 7-10, we find that God means for His people not to join together in alliance with unbelievers or those of compromised faith. That, of course, involves marriage, clubs, business, church denomination and particularly the work of the Lord. It is a principle that runs all through the Bible and no Christian can deny it.

Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 19 thought he could get around this Bible principle and three times allied with God's enemies. The Bible records the sad results and this should serve as a warning to us not to yoke up with those who seem to be talking the faith without practicing and living the faith.

As we evaluate the radio speaker, we need to ask ourselves whether he is defending the faith delivered by Christ and His disciples and whether his lifestyle is in accordance with his preaching. Does the speaker elude to all the modernist preachers as his "brethren?" Does he promote other men who are in direct disobedience to the scriptures? Is he more concerned about your giving to his ministry than he is with your soul? Does he use unscriptural methods to promote his ministry? Does he really glorify God?

As conservative believers, we need to strongly consider whether we are giving aid and comfort to the enemy of Christ. We cannot become a partaker of their evil deeds by lending our support financially to their cause. To yoke up with them in the quasi-gospel work and to call them "Brethren," is wrong.

One prolific writer and radio preacher, along with his wife, were involved in the production of a film on Christian marriage with a bar-maid, Adolf Coors Jr. (the beer manufacturer) and others of obvious question as to their commitment. This same man and his family do not practice separation from the world. Can we, then, allow this man to communicate his message to us that he obviously does not

believe or practice? My dear friends, there is a lot of money in this kind of ministry today. With over ninety million so called "born again" believers in the United States, the market place is ripe.

You must be able to observe faithfulness in the life of the one to whom you give your support. But in addition, you must also be faithful to God's Word, to the church, and to the ministry of the group with whom you fellowship.

I would not claim to believe that a hundred percent of today's radio ministers are not living their message and are thus not appropriate to be listened to, but I do encourage you to use the greatest of caution as you submit yourself to their message.

Brother Leonard Wertz

TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

We are to train up a child in the way he should go, then when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov. 22:6. It is hard today to raise a family. Not like it was when we were children. There is much going on in the school and community. Parents spend money to give their children a good education so they can get a good job and prepare themselves for the future.

They take them to Church and try to show them what it is to have a good Christian home. They help them, when they are old enough, to see what a difference it makes when Christ rules their lives. I was always in a Christian home. I cannot imagine what a home would be like without Christ. But now people don't seem to care about their soul's salvation. If children would be able to see this, there would not be so many in trouble. They must be taught early in life the difference between right and wrong. So often today as our children enter High School so many of their associates don't know the Lord, and there is so much trouble. Often a good boy is led astray.

One day a boy was walking with his father. He told his father he wanted to go back to the car to get something. His father told his son to be careful for by the car was a deserted cabin and by the cabin was a well. So to be careful. When the boy returned he told his father how he kept away from the well by following in his tracks. Parents, what kind of tracks are you leaving for your children to follow?

If Christ is the unseen guest in our homes, there will be love and happiness. We all know love is very important in any home. Even when there is a storm we know we have the love of God with us. Is our home better because we are a part of it? It is very important in every home that we teach our dear ones about Christ and we as parents be deeply rooted in the Faith, then as storms come we will be able to stand. Let us, as parents, work and strive, day by day, regardless of the

cost to win them for Christ. Can our children feel that Christ is in the home, and it is brighter through His love?

A story is told of a boy whose parents were not Christians. They made him steal and do all kinds of wrong things to help support them. Finally, one day, he could not stand it any longer, so he left home. He did not know what to do, so he traveled on and on for several hundred miles. He was so tired and hungry. He noticed a farm house. He went in and they seemed so glad to have him. At once he noticed it was not like his home. The man and woman seemed so different. Soon he found the answer. It was a Christian home. They read the Bible each day and then they knelt and prayed. He seemed to fit in well here and they seemed to want him. They always went to church. Soon he felt he needed the Christ they followed and he accepted Christ and started to live a good life. They adopted him and were so happy together. Before long he was put into the ministry and started carrying the message of salvation to a dying world.

Here is an example of what a Christian home can do. When Christ brightens our home there is no room for darkness. May we, as parents, hold the great light that shines in our lives before our children, so they can see what it means to have Christ in our lives. Then when they have a home, it will also shine there and will be a blessing to all who enter.

Sister E. M. Alltus

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, as I think back over my day and my responsibility in training my children I am made sorry for the times I have failed. I am so weak and feel so unworthy of this giant task of rearing children in the ways of the Lord. As I feel remorse for my mistakes today, I have to wonder, who is the child — my children or me? I feel like a child myself in need of a Father's reprimanding.

I try to teach my children not to criticize. I tell them not to jump to conclusions or make fun of people or feel badly toward someone just because they may be different in some ways from what we're used to. And yet I so often find myself doing that very thing in my heart. Someone may dress differently, eat differently, spend their money for different things than we do, or have certain habits or mannerisms that are not necessarily wrong — they're just different. Yet, I know I don't respond like I tell my children they should.

I tell them that if there are quarrels or they are mistreated, they should be very ready to forgive because that's what Jesus wants us to do. That's what He did for us. And yet I'm still remembering things that happened years, months, weeks or days ago, that is so easy to

hold grudges over. Please remove all that tonight, Lord.

I tell them that even when things go wrong and they're tempted to get angry they must not. They must do what Jesus wants them to do. But then the children do something wrong and I lash out in anger, crushing their spirits. Oh, Lord, FORGIVE!

I tell them that God must come first in their lives. I want them to remember all through life that no matter what they face, what decisions need to be made, what paths they choose in life, God and His will must come first. And yet do they see that You are first in my life? Am I showing them proper priorities when I need to do all my housework first, I need to have the last crumbs swept from the floor at night before I finally collapse in a chair to read a Bible story to them? Help me, Lord, to put You first and make it obvious to the children that You really are the most important to me.

I tell them not to be moody. I tell them that even when they're sad, angry, or just not feeling good about something they should learn to be pleasant and cheerful. Lord, help me to SHOW them what I mean rather than just TELL them.

I try to teach them to give up their rights — to instill within them that really they have no rights — that every blessing we enjoy is granted us of the Lord and we deserve no good thing. I want them to share — to have the motto of "What's mine is yours and we'll share it" but yet I struggle with feelings of "How can they do that to us?" or "Don't we deserve something better?" or "Children, don't I have the right to some quiet time without you disturbing me?" Help me Lord to give, GIVE, GIVE!! I know the rewards and the getting will be great in Your own timing.

I teach the children that we should love everyone because God made them and He loves them. But I go to town and see people and seldom talk to them and almost never tell them of God's love. Am I really loving them? Or worse yet, if I fail to love the members of the Church. Cleanse my heart of all jealousy, envy, and any feelings that are not loving and lovely.

I tell them to have a sweet spirit. I don't like to look at frowns and scowls so much. Lord, help me to be a better teacher in this area. When things don't go well it's so easy for my countenance to change — for smiles to leave and frowns to come. Fill me with Your Spirit!

I tell them not to say unkind things about people. Sometimes things that come from their lips aren't even true but even if they are true I tell them not to repeat things if it hurts other people. Oh, Lord, you know my weakness. Help me not to gossip, and let only what is good and edifying come forth from them.

How I need Your help!! Help me to sing as I go about my daily work. Help me to make the atmosphere in our home pleasant and relaxing. Help me to be loving and considerate of the needs of these little souls that You have loaned to us for however long You see fit.

Give me wisdom to discern when they need a spanking or when they need a hug — when they need lots of attention or when they need to be ignored. Most of all just help me to be the way You want ME to be, so they will have a good example. I have to think of what You say in Your Word: "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." (I Cor. 14:20)

Thank You for loving me, for Your forgiveness, Your mercy and grace and for Your promises that You will supply all our need. We can do all things through You! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Selected

COME APART

Come apart, and rest awhile, or you may simply "come apart." This is a highstress age. If we don't take time out for rest and relaxation, we'll soon burn out and be worthless. We usually allow for physical rest, but that alone is not enough. An overloaded mind hinders physical rest, and a burdened spirit hinders both mental and physical rest. Release from physical stress is good, but our minds and hearts need refreshing also.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." Mark 6:31. They sought solitude, but the people prevented it. At their "desert place", several thousand people came, possibly twenty thousand. The Bible only gives the number of men, not of women and children, so we don't know for sure, but it is no wonder there was no chance to rest or eat. Jesus finally sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee, so they could get away from the people for awhile.

Everyone needs some time to "come apart and rest" or they will simply come apart mentally. When pressures increase, it is wise to seek some solitude, a place of quietness and rest, or you may "come apart at the seams." If you continually drive yourself, you will pay for it eventually. Jesus knew this, and made sure His disciples were away from the confusion and demands of all the people for awhile. If He were here in person, no doubt Jesus would direct us to do the same.

Under the Law, God provided for rest for the land. "But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the Lord." Lev. 25:4. Surely if the land needs total rest, people do. When

pressure on us builds and daily demands increase, the need for times of complete rest increases also. Rest brings renewal. It helps to calm our souls, and gives us time to commune with God, the source of our strength.

The disciples were so pressured that they didn't have time to eat, and this can happen to us too. Oh, we may not miss any meals, but when food is eaten so rapidly that we hardly taste it, we haven't met the needs of our bodies. When we hardly have time for a complete night's rest — there's too much to do, we say — or we toss and turn because of life's hectic pace, it is time to "come apart and rest awhile", both mentally and physically.

Sometimes we will find this place of rest only by special effort, as Satan does not want us to rest. If he can keep us frantically busy and on edge, he can keep us from serving the Lord as we should. When we are too busy, we don't have time to consider if we are really doing God's Will, or just going through the motions. Having time to think, as well as time to rest, is very important.

"But the Wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isa. 57:20-21. Believers aren't to be like this, all riled up and agitated all the time. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Jesus is the place to start, the source of spiritual rest. After receiving His rest, He will help us to obtain physical and mental rest, if we do as He says.

Job was so miserable that he wished he had found rest in death (see Job 3:13, 17). In Psa. 55:5, David said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then I would fly away, and be at rest." Both men were distressed by life's troubles, and longed for relief. Both knew their only help was in God. David wrote, "Commit thy way unto the Lord", "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." (Psa. 37:5, 7). We need to do the same, for there is no real rest outside of God.

"For thus saith the Lord God the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not." Isa. 30:15. Help was available to God's chosen people, but they didn't want to accept it. They wanted to go their own way. This same help is available to us, if we will only accept it. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Heb. 4:9. This is special, just for believers.

"I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house." (Dan. 4:4) He was at rest in his sin, as the wicked usually are, until confronted by God. That changes everything. Apart from God, there is no real rest, certainly no spiritual rest. Nebuchadnezzar thought he was doing great, surrounded by luxury, but in the end, his "rest" disappeared. People frequently seek satisfaction in life's hustle and bustle, or the things

which only give a temporary thrill. But like Nebuchadnezzar, they will one day realize that only Jesus gives real rest and satisfaction.

"Naomi said to Ruth, 'My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?' " Ruth 3:1. She was seeking security for Ruth, but this is an example of how we must at times help another find rest. It may be spiritual, mental, or physical, but as Jesus said, we need to say, "Come apart and rest awhile." Take time out from life's hectic pace for yourself also, to rest, to relax, and allow God to renew you. "Be still and know that I am God." Psalms 46:10.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

HARMONY

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the Word of God tells us, "Let this mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus."

The thought that comes to mind as I ponder this verse, is that of a oneness or harmony. We know that the mind of Christ was continually on doing the "will of the Father." Christ also taught unity amongst the Brethren. I believe, also, that Paul was convinced of the necessity of harmony and oneness in the Church.

Possibly the greatest example of Christ's willingness to have harmony amongst the Godhead, was His prayer in the Garden. Christ said, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Again, Christ said, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Even though Christ knew what was to come and the cruelty that would be done unto Him, He still wanted the will of His Father in Heaven to be done.

We have heard the crucifixion story time after time, yet I wonder if we really considered what happened. The Romans scourged and spit upon Christ. The scourging alone would have been physically unbearable, but they went on to mock Him and spit upon Him. Can we imagine the mental suffering they put Christ through? A Heavenly King, the Redeemer of mankind, brought so low and made to suffer and die for our sins. Yet I believe Christ knew that all this must be done to fulfill His Father's will. We see that when Christ was hanging upon the cross, and gave up the ghost, the oneness or harmony of life was broken. To accentuate this moment, God caused a darkness to come over the earth; graves were opened, and the temple veil was rent in twain.

God planned our physical bodies to harmonize. When one part or another ceases to function, it seems to run the whole body down. When there is an injury to an individual, it breaks the harmony of life,

and depending upon the seriousness of the injury, it may even result in death. We're made to think of the family life. So much of the time, it is taken for granted, until the Lord calls a loved one Home. Then the harmony of the family life has been broken. It seems to take quite some time to adjust, and to fill that void.

Another excellent example of harmony, is that of nature and the weather. God has shown us in several instances the results of this being broken. That terrible thing called a tornado, is the result of one wind current being met by a current from a conflicting direction. The Brethren in the midwest can relate to this type of storm and the disaster it creates. The peaceful harmony of the ordinary, taken-for-granted wind, was broken.

Now we would like to consider the Church. She has withstood many storms from without, and still stands firm. It's these storms that have made her strong, and made her grow. The storms I wish to write about are the ones from within. We hear from time to time about discord in the brotherhood, and the results of it. This is what I would like to touch on, because as Brothers and Sisters, we must strive to keep harmony among us.

For a moment, put yourself in the shoes of a person of the world. This person has become interested in the Church and her doctrines, and has even started to attend. Then he hears of some difficulty between members, such as the color of a brother's suit, or a sister's dress or the way someone washes and styles their hair. These types of storms must be handled with the Church's best interest and example in mind, that they might not lead the worldly person astray, or cause division in the body of Christ.

It saddens my heart when I hear of such trivial things breaking up the beautiful harmony of the Church. Brethren and Sisters, these things ought not to be. We must be careful not to become as the Pharisees, and strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. The Pharisees were so concerned about the paying of tithe and the outward appearance, that Christ even called them whited sepulchres, for they were leaving the weightier matters undone; such as judgment, mercy and faith. They wanted the outside right for the show, but the inside was empty of all the "real life." I believe that the plain churches, including the Dunkard Brethren, could fall into this trap very easily. Paul writes about the harmony of the Church being threatened. Some were saying "I am of Paul," and others, "I am of Apollos," and others, "I am of Christ." "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

We should not let our personal opinions and preferences cause divisions in the Church. The covering and our apparel should be modest and neat, with us keeping in mind that we are examples to

those around us. We should be pictures of the true and living God. When we think of being the image of Christ, we think of beauty and harmony, and all things in life working smoothly together. Paul writes to us again and says "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." I Cor. 12:25-26. We find this easy to practice with our own flesh and blood, but what about our spiritual family? Do we take the time to fellowship and share with them? Do we rejoice with them, or are we afraid that honoring another one of God's family might take away from our position or self-esteem? Again, the Word of God says "Let this mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus."

We know that harmony begins by submissiveness to Christ and to one another. As Children of God, we must always show our submissiveness to our higher powers, both in the Church and in our land, providing they are in accordance with God's will. We must learn to forgive and forget, and love one another as God intended us to. Only when this is done will we be able to glorify God and praise His name as it truly deserves.

We would close this article with the words that Paul penned to the Philippian Church. Philippians 2:1-5 "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

It would be our prayer, that as the latter days approach us, we, as a united body of believers would strive earnestly for that beautiful harmony that God expects of us. May God add His Blessings.

Brother David Snyder
McClave, Colorado



At the foot of every page in the annals of nations may be written, "God reigns." Events as they pass away proclaim their original; and if you will but listen reverently, you may hear the receding centuries, as they roll into the dim distances of parted time, perpetually chanting "Te Deum Laudamus," with all the choral voices of the countless congregations of the age. — Bancroft.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1925

AN UNFAILING REMEDY

D. F. Lepley

A poor sin-sick, starving church member, who had become so stunted and warped in his growth, that he was hardly to be recognized as a follower of his meek and lowly Lord and Master, came to doctor "Simon Peter", after he had become a fisher, a healer and helper of men, to know how he might gain strength and "grow in grace" and in the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a "perfect man", "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Surely Peter must have looked upon this poor, stunted but hungry soul in great astonishment and pity. Here was a brother "patient", almost a helpless failure and who was in the utmost need of a safe and effective remedy, if he would live, and not die.

Peter, remembering his Lord's admonition — "And when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren," says — Brother, take this prescription to the laboratory of the "great physician." Get it filled and use it faithfully in just the manner prescribed and I am sure you will get well and grow.

A most wonderful prescription brethren — "add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, Godliness; and to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity."

What a wonderful combination of ingredients this really is, when you consider what they are; and how truly wonderful it is, that if any one of them were missed, or applied in any other manner, it would simply destroy the efficacy of the remedy; and the most marvelous thing of all is, that to insure the permanent fruition of Christian growth, these elements dare not form only an aimless mechanical mixture; but each one must be added in its regular order, and become such an integral part of the Christian's life; and as inseparably combined with the others, as is the Trinity of the God-head.

The first of these is faith — (belief). This is the base or fundamental element, "the substance of things hoped for"; and yet faith, without the others, (works, fruitage, and so forth) is dead — simply an inert lifeless thing.

Having supplied faith, so as to fertilize and prepare it for useful growth, you must add virtue (moral excellence), that supreme desire in the heart to know righteousness; and this naturally demands the introduction of that most useful and necessary element, knowledge, (information, the comprehension of facts) but which in many cases is

a dangerous addition, unless preceded by the element of virtue, to direct its application; and followed by the addition of temperance; (self-control — that power of the will that compels the mind to refuse obedience to our carnal impulses) the only and great preventative of a dangerous "swelling up" of the head, commonly called the "big head", a malady most destructive to Christian growth.

When this crisis is safely in hand and signs of fruitage appear, then must be added, if the fruit shall grow and mature, that wonder-working element, patience, the transition medium or stepping stone, so indispensable to the growing Christian, in crossing the gulf that separates the preparatory, or "sowing" period from the fruit bearing, or "serving" period of his life; and this must be manifested by the elements of Godliness; (real piety — a deeply religious life) and few there be who can cross that gulf without having to endure much persecution and reproach and many disappointments at the hands of scoffers, ungodly and ungrateful men; and a double portion of patience, that power to endure suffering without complaint, well combined with all of the preceding elements, is the only thing that will help him over this hard place and enable him to live a Godly and useful life.

Now, having reached this stage of growth, fruit bearing ("works") must begin in real earnest; hence there is needed the addition of brotherly kindness; the application, by the Christian, of the Golden Rule towards all, and its manifestation in his every day life, so that he may "abound in good works" and be prepared for that greatest, the crowning "cap sheaf" of all the Christian graces, "charity" — love, that God-like grace in man that makes him willing to see; and to strive to encourage only the good in brother, friend or foe; and to forgive and forget every offense.

"And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." Faith, abiding alone, is dead. Charity is not possible without first acquiring all the other graces.

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Be he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see a far off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."



He that first likened glory to a shadow, did better than he was aware of; they are both vain. Glory, also, like the shadow, goes sometimes before the body, and sometimes in length infinitely exceeds it. — Montaigne.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation extends a hearty invitation to all who can to share in our Revival Meetings, July 21 to August 4. If the Lord wills, Bro. Leonard Wertz from Quinter, Kansas will be our Evangelist. The week day services start at 7:45 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Our Harvest Meeting will be July 21, with Bro. Robert Carpenter as speaker, in the afternoon.

We would appreciate your prayers and attendance that we all might have an increase in faith in God.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Broadwater Chapel Congregation looks forward to a week's Revival Meeting, July 28 through August 4. The Lovefeast will be held Saturday, August 3.

Bro. Allen Eberly from Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. Come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

I wish to thank everyone for their every remembrance of me while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. Every prayer, card, visit, telephone call, and act of love was greatly appreciated. God bless you each and every one abundantly.

Sister Mamie Leatherman



We are helping or harming our fellows. We may not have a thought of one who is near us; we may not say a word or give a look, kind or unkind, to him, yet we may cheer and help him, or sadden and dishearten him, by our countenance as he looks at us, or as we look at him. No one stands or falls to himself alone. Our influence is continuous. There are those who are constantly helping their fellows by loving looks or words. And there are those who are a constant cause of depression, by not being thoughtful to do this. A button was once touched in New York which fired guns and rang bells all around the world. Yet the man who touched the button never heard a sound.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

JULY 15, 1985

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LABORERS IN CHRIST ARISE

Lab'ers of Christ, arise,
And gird you for the toil;
The dew of promise from the skies
Already cheers the soil.

Go where the sick recline,
Where mourning hearts deplore;
And where the sons of sorrow pine,
Dispense your hallowed lore.

Urge, with a tender zeal,
The erring child along
Where peaceful congregations kneel
And pious teachers throng.

Be faith, which looks above,
With pray'r, your constant guest;
And wrap the Savior's changeless love
A mantle round your breast.

So shall you share the wealth
That earth may ne'er despoil,
And the blest gospel's saving health
Repay your arduous toil.

- Lydia Sigourney

STAYING BY THE STUFF

At least twice while David led his band of men, he rewarded those who stayed by the stuff equally with those who went into the heat of the battle. An army must have those who provide and store supplies. There usually is not much honor given to those who handle the supplies. Although they are not credited with winning the battle, if they had not done their work well, the army may have failed to win the battle.

Staying by the stuff is not glamorous. It does not draw others to take up that work. People would rather have a more visible and dynamic position. Everyone wants to be in the spotlight. There is a desire in the human heart for fame and notoriety. Staying by the stuff will not satisfy that longing. Many times there is a smaller reward for that kind of job than for the more appealing position. It was with reluctance that David's army finally shared the spoil with those who remained behind.

It is evident that not everyone can serve in the front line. If all were at the front there would be so many that effective control would be lost. If all were at the front there would be none behind to supply the more mundane needs of the army such as food, clothing and even ammunition. Not all would be suitable for frontline service by reason of their temperament, attitude, training or abilities. All cannot serve up front nor could those up front serve well back by the stuff.

There are many parallels between the armies of this world and the Church. Although the Church is non-resistant there remains a valid comparison between the two. There are many such comparisons within the Bible itself. Especially is the armor and selfless giving of the soldier compared to that of the Christian.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JULY 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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There are various offices in the Church that are considered to be on the front line. They are visible in the battle against Satan and his evil devices. These positions may look very glamorous and many may have a desire to serve in them. But those who already serve on the frontline can readily appreciate the need for those who stay by the stuff. The work of the Church depends much on those who stay by the stuff. Though they may not gain fame, they are needed. Without the support of the members of the Church, the officials could accomplish little.

While leadership is needed to direct the energies of the membership, there needs to be someone for the leaders to lead. There is a need for those who will follow. Just as the Good Shepherd needs sheep who will follow, so the under-shepherds also need sheep willing to go into green pastures and drink still waters. It is the responsibility of the leaders to keep the sheep out of the weeds and away from the rushing, turbulent waters. If the sheep, however, refuse to follow, even the best of leadership can be wasted.

Those who stay by the stuff can have a big impact on the success of the work of the Church. Those who are in the background have important things to do. It is their prayers that sustain those on the front line. Their prayers change things. As they consistently pray, God is moved to work out the conditions before them.

Those in the background supply the temporal needs of the Church. The leaders may lead but they do not have unlimited temporal means to give for the battle. So that supply must come from those not so prominent. It may not be by great dramatic amounts but in the small gifts given consistently.

Those by the stuff fill the pews. There would be none to lead if they were not in their place. Those in the background may not get much recognition but they are important — without them the meeting houses would be empty, the coffers would be nearly so and the power brought by prayer would be lacking.

While those who stay by the stuff labor without recognition, there will be blessings for each one of them. Just as David saw that they received their portion of the spoil, so God will recognize and bless those who serve in the background. God never forgets the service of His people. Although men may be slow to realize the importance of staying by the stuff, God puts everything in a proper perspective.

If you are staying by the stuff do not become weary in well doing. You are needed in that position. Faithfulness in that duty is a field of preparation for future leaders. It is also needful at all times to have the stuff watched over by those who are faithful so the enemy does not steal it away. Staying by the stuff is important — do it faithfully.

ARE THERE ANY SPIDER WEBS IN OUR LIVES?

I've been considering the spider lately and I want to make a comparison, as it lays heavy on my mind.

The spider will be Satan, its web will be Satan's pernicious ways, and an entrapped insect could be you or me and our soul's salvation.

It takes a spider about an hour to spin a web. When the work is done, the finished product is a net of sticky threads. The thread is thinner than a hair, but it's very strong.

Satan moves about seeking to lead astray the very elect of God. He works on weak souls and also the stronger ones. He's tempting us all. Just as the spider rebuilds its web (trap) when something destroys the first one, Satan never gives up on us. If he can't trick us one way into sinning, he'll try many others. He knows our weakest points, I believe. We find in 1 Pet. 5:8 "... your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

The spider starts its web by sending out a thread. The thread floats in the air until it sticks to a twig or leaf. It does this several times in different directions. It keeps on spinning around and around in circles. Soon its web is finished. It then lies in wait for its prey.

Our adversary starts out slowly with small temptations. If we accept them he introduces us to larger sins, feeling sure we'll fall for his ways, as we've already come part way.

Sinning can grow on us. The more we do it the easier it becomes and with less thought. "Be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23.

When a spider catches an insect, it bites it very quickly. The spider's bite has a poison that makes an insect helpless. It cannot move or get away. Soon the insect is dead.

Satan's ideas and thoughts are like poison to our souls. We can become helpless creatures unless we turn our lives completely over to Christ. He can heal us from Satan's venomous bites before we become victim. He can free us from Satan's sticky web of entrapment. He can make us alive again.

May we keep free from the webs; search out our thoughts and ways. Let us ask ourselves if they be of God.

Many of us share a common fear of spiders. May we fear Satan's cunning ways and at the same time fear God's wrath in the day of judgement.

One last thought is found in Eph. 5:14-17, "... Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

In Christian love,
Sister Karen Blocher
9946 U.S. Rt. 36
Bradford, OH 45308

CHRISTIANS DON'T HAVE PROBLEMS

Christians don't have problems, right? Wrong! If they are truly committed to Christ and are pleasing Him, THEN they won't have problems, right? Wrong! Jesus said, "In the world ye shall (not might!) have tribulation", and that fact hasn't changed. There will be troubles and trials in this life whether we "deserve" them or not, and to deny that fact is to deny that we are human. This applies to both Christians and non-Christians, even though that may not seem fair.

So we know we can all expect problems, but surely Christians have fewer problems, don't they? The answer again is, "no". In fact, it is highly likely that a Christian will have more problems and distresses simply because he or she is going against the current rather than drifting with the tide. Besides these, we have some problems to face because of our own wrong-doing and unwise choices. Christians aren't satisfied to live a careless, selfish life, as most people do, so they are at odds with current trends.

Paul wrote "that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22b. Tribulation means great affliction or distress, or that which causes it. This doesn't indicate that our lives will be easy, and free of heartache, but will in fact be a definite testing time for us. We don't always understand why problems come, especially in the lives of others, but we can and should look into our own hearts and decide if our problems have come because of our faith or our foolishness.

"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it. Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for awhile: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." Matt. 13:20-21. Problems which come because we are serving God test our loyalty and faith. If our faith has only shallow roots, we will soon give up when trouble comes. True faith is enduring faith, the kind we all need.

"Tribulation worketh patience" (Rom. 5:3), and patience is a virtue needed by all Christians. "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." Rom. 12:12. This means looking to

the Lord, and trusting Him to work things out for us rather than wasting our time on worrying. It means waiting with quietness and peace in our hearts, in the midst of our trials. It means being happy in spite of whatever problems we are having, because we have hope in Jesus.

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. The things which bother us here will someday come to an end. In the meantime, Jesus wants us to have His peace in our hearts. Through Him, we too can overcome, or rise above, the cares or heartaches of this world, knowing that Jesus will take care of us.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Rom. 8:35. No matter what comes our way, no matter how bad things get, Jesus will still love us and care for us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, (see Rom. 8:28-29), unless we forsake Him.

"Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Cor. 1:4. We are not left alone in our tribulation, but God is there to comfort us. He expects us then to pass this on, to comfort others as we have been comforted. We should be ready to comfort others, no matter what the problem is. The phrase "any trouble" covers everything, big or little. Even if it looks trivial to you, offer comfort and encouragement, as it may be causing much greater distress than you can see.

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." I Pet. 2:19-20. When we make mistakes, God will forgive us, but we will still suffer because of them. However, when we do what's right and suffer for that, God is pleased when we bear it patiently.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Pet. 5:10. Christians do have problems, and they do suffer, sometimes because of their own choices, other times because of what someone else does. After the suffering comes the steadfastness and a stronger faith. God could prevent all problems, but He chooses instead to use them to strengthen us.

If you are having problems, ask God to help you cope with them

and to make the right decisions. In so doing, things will turn out much better. If you're not having problems, maybe you need to give yourself a spiritual checkup. You may just be taking the easy way out, rather than standing for what's right. Problems never seem fair, but they are part of life. Learn to face yours in Christ's strength!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1925

WILL NUMBERS COUNT?

Marion A. Roesch

Our church is fast losing her distinctive doctrinal teachings. Many of the forms which our grandfathers in the church considered necessary in order to gain a closer walk with our Savior are now becoming obsolete.

There is an element in our church today, who have just woke up? And have discovered (?) that our forefathers did not adopt the right method in their service for Christ. Our forefathers believed that the Bible taught that Christ's church should be a separate and peculiar people. Separated from the world unto good works, in not mixing up with the affairs and customs of the world; and peculiar in the eyes of the world as to dress, language and conduct. This element believes the church has spent too much time in trying to uphold these forms and other doctrinal principles. The Brethren adopted forms in order to carry out the doctrinal teachings.

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." II Thess. 2:15.

It has been said that the church is full of forms in her ways of worship. As to music in our worship we don't need to sing anymore, for we have made instruments of most every description that we have borrowed from the world, which supplants the organ God created to be used to sing songs unto Him.

Have the primitive forms and traditions of the church been a harm or a benefit. A benefit: Yea, verily! for when the church used to practice nonconformity and the salutation, and so forth, (which are now almost a thing of the past) she had more spirituality. The church had more power, and in the eyes of the world more respect. Our word was considered as good as our note.

As a result of the church spending so much time in teaching these doctrines which are given in the New Testament, she has not grown in numbers so rapidly and is not quite so popular (were Christ or

His teachings popular in his day?) as other denominations that were organized at a later date, and now have a much larger membership than our own beloved church.

Therefore some of our educated leaders leave the impression in their teachings that if we would spend a little less time on these little things and adopt the methods other denominations have been using, we would stand a better chance of entering the Pearly Gates.

If the minority is on the right side — Christ's side, then let me, yes, let everyone of us be there also, whether popular or an outcast.

But, dear reader, will numbers get us to heaven? Will admitting the world into our programs advance us spiritually? When people of the world help deliver our programs, is it not a worldly entertainment for the world? Did the children of Israel gain in favor with God, when they did like other nations? Will popularity obtain for us a glad welcome from our Saviour?

Brethren, truly we are nearing the last days, for says Paul in II Thess. 2:3, "That day shall not come except there come a falling away first."

May our faith be increased and may we have strength to withstand the temptations of these days of sin.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Living in a leisure society"

I am concerned about Christians who use the humanistic term of "killing time." Leisure time today is one of the real dangers facing Christians as well as man in general. Many times we desire to fill time with meaningless activities.

You say, "Well, as long as a person keeps occupied, what does it matter what he does with his time? After all, my time belongs to me, right?" Wrong! We need to set up high standards whereby we can judge the value of time. To take up our society's way of using leisure time is to dull and threaten the richness of our Christian experience.

Even though modern conveniences have freed us from the long working hours that used to be common to man, people usually unproductively fritter away these hours. Possibly we just drive around aimlessly or seek varied other ways to cure boredom. We have become slaves to mediocrity!

So, what should you do with your time? Is it merely something that is to be filled with activities? You might look at it in terms of quantity... how many things you can do in a period of time. You just couldn't stand to be quiet and commune with God. You couldn't stand the silence. But, have you looked at the issue in a qualitative way? Have you asked yourself what would be a significant, beneficial,

rewarding and constructive way to use your leisure time? It seems you are so busy keeping your wheels spinning that you do little thinking about quality time use.

Americans spend over eighty billion dollars each year on leisure time activities... travel, sports, games, entertainment, and so forth. In our affluent society, leisure is defined mostly in regard to pleasure. Our chief objective is to "live it up!"

It is not really wrong to have fun. The natural fruit of the well-lived life is that of enjoyment. Yet the Christian has a responsibility beyond the momentary enjoyment. Our attitude toward pleasure and leisure goes beyond the "live it up" philosophy. We believe that time is a stewardship in much the same way we consider our talents and money as a stewardship to God. Our time can never be separated from our faith. Every moment must be lived in the context of the control of the Holy Spirit. You say, "Well, that sounds like a killjoy idea to me." On the contrary, God has given us many pursuits and activities to enjoy. He has given us creative imaginations to work toward wholesome enjoyment. He tells us that whatever we do, we should do it heartily... and to His glory. This means making our leisure time a part of the abundant life.

Unfortunately, some young people and older people alike, put their religion in the leisure category. They make it an elective, a spare time activity like going to a ballgame. But according to the New Testament teaching, our religion is a full time activity. You can't be a part-timer in your Christian experience. You never go "off-duty!"

In Eph. 5:16 we read of "redeeming the time." This means literally to buy it back... in the sense that time has been taken away from us and thus we need to redeem it. Jesus gave us a great example. He was a wise steward of His time. He used His hours to the greatest advantage. This does not mean that He never enjoyed Himself. If we would carefully study the gospels, we would learn that He had many enjoyable and exciting encounters. We should understand His use of time and pattern our lives after His.

I am not saying that you will or should be working every moment. But I am saying that you should fill up your spare time with church or Bible related activities. Spend time with other Christians in blessed exchange. Whatever you do, remember to do it "as unto the Lord." If you can't use that criteria as a determination of right motives then you need to re-adjust your thinking. Don't be selfish with it and use it only for self-indulgence. Use it to promote harmony and spirituality. Pursue it by pleasureable service to others.

Look closely at your leisure hours. Are you using them according to humanistic values or in relation to God's standards. Choose the wholesome and productive way to use your leisure time.

Brother Leonard Wertz

GENERAL CONFERENCE, NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

SERMON NOTES

SATURDAY P.M.

Bro. Michael Wray opened, Eph. 5:14.

We don't come here to be entertained. We come here that we might be taught by God. There is something in God's Word by the help of Him that we might be built up.

Bro. Leonard Wertz, Acts 4:1-13, The Blessing of Persecution.

Persecution may come upon us. Christians are persecuted in parts of the world today. Persecution came many times to the Apostle Paul. Satan is killing the Christian Church. We do so little for the work of Christ today. We cannot love the World. We are not to hide our Christianity. We must live for Christ. Persecution makes us a strong Church. If we are not following Christ we may be following Satan. Are we where God wants us to be or are we following Satan? If we build our lives on Jesus, we are building on that perfect one. He's the chief corner stone. Persecution makes us lean upon Jesus Christ. We have to be in full line with Christ. Do not be discouraged if persecution comes into your lives. Stand up for Jesus. Stand all the way for Him. Let's wake up all of you. Get on fire for Jesus Christ.

Bro. Gordon Jamison, Luke 10:25-37

Where Jesus speaks the word it should be very special to us. How many times are we confronted with the needy. Have you ever felt a very simple person? We need to look around about us in the world. There is something for us to do. The Levite had no compassion for the stranger laying along the road, robbed and beaten. Needs are all around us. We have a mission in this world. We are to follow the good Samaritan. Are you looking to the world for compassion or a critic or a heart of love? A lot of the world doesn't know who their mother or father is. Are we willing to do something about their needs? Jesus came not to save the righteous but to call the sinners to repentance. Discipline with Christian love is very essential to help a wayward soul. Let's reach out to the One who leads us to that perfect life. Help those who are in need of saving their souls.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer closed.

We speak of the heat. We do not know what it is yet. What if we had to face hell and persecution. We don't know what persecution is in this country. Would you be faithful and hold to Christ if the whole world was against you and you would face death?

SATURDAY EVENING

Bro. Laverne Keeney opened, Romans 11:9-25.

As God looks on this generation what would He find? Will He find any fruits? Will people of God still have faith when Jesus comes?

Bro. Rudy Cover, True Riches, Luke 16:10-13.

There must be a stop to us trying so hard to save money. We must set all our affections above. Seek ye first the kingdom and His righteousness and the rest will be added unto you. Too many people seek too much for riches in this life. We must spend more of our time for the Lord. God will give us credit for all the money we give to help someone in need. Lazarus laid at the gates with sores and the rich man wouldn't help him. The rich man went to Hell but Lazarus went to Heaven. Lazarus was just a poor man. The rich man looked across and saw Lazarus in Heaven. He prayed for a few drops of water to cool his parched tongue. Put all your heart and soul into serving God. Jesus is our hope. He's the only hope that we have. He is our salvation that we may gain that Heavenly Home. Faith, hope and charity. God is love. We must be rich in good works. It's more blessed to give than to receive. We must build up treasures in Heaven. We can't serve God and mammon. What would you give in exchange for your soul? You would give nothing.

Bro. William Carpenter closed. Eph. 3:8.

What do you do with your money?

SUNDAY A.M.

Bro. Paul Myers opened. I Cor. 13.

We must have charity (love) for one another. It is easy to settle differences if we have charity one for the other. We must put away childish things when we become a man. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Bro. David Skiles, Heb. 10:19-27

The day of our Lord is approaching when He will come again. There is a lot of admonition. There is a difference between faith and practice. Our faith and practice should be the same. We should put a little bit more in our work for Christ. Love is a working word. We want to practice it very much. We can have a bountiful service to our Lord Jesus. We serve a great God. He is a mighty God. He can have power to help our minds develop faithfully and spiritually. He will not let us down. Are we keeping the faith? Are we practicing the faith? Woe unto them that are slack in Zion. Consider one another. Let us put in a little bit more effort. What is the way to seek this? We must have that vine in us which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must be known and read to show that we are a Christian. Love is an action word. There are two provisions of sanctification. We must be kept a clean heart in this world. We must be united with Christ. That precious blood of Jesus Christ unites us with Him. We must be as one. The Father and the Son are one. We must not be jealous of one another. We must have love one for the other. There may be differences, but in Christ there must be a love one for the other united as one in Christ and still work together. We must have love for the wayward and try to work with him and get him back with Christ. Let us hold to that perfection of our faith. Do it without wavering. We grow in Christ in little bits and pieces until we grow into maturity. God is not satisfied until He sees the best that comes out in us. God is able to bring you through. Don't give up. Stay faithful until the end. Good better best, never let it rest. Good will become best in the end.

Bro. Dale Jamison, II Tim. 1:1-13, Building and Maintaining Convictions.

Hold fast to that which we have. We must work together with an open and sincere heart. We need to exalt our church that is built on a solid rock, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the doctrine of Jesus Christ." Are you ashamed of our wonderful Savior and His teachings? Hold fast to that which we have.

Bro. Eugene Kauffman closed.

Satan tries to convince us to put off for tomorrow what we can do today. He knows this weakness. Our Church is not built on our own thoughts, but on Christ our Savior. Let us keep the faith.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

STANDING BY THE TRUTH

I hope this story I read a number of years ago might help some to be able to stand up for Christ among their associates.

One day a child only twelve years old, was riding a bus and the only seat left was one next to a Nun. The lady began to talk to this child. Just as they were approaching a Catholic shrine, she noticed the Nun worshipping the Image. At once the Nun said to the child, "Why didn't you worship this Image? Have you made your first communion?"

"No, Madam."

"Well, you better do it soon, for I am sure you must be twelve years old."

"Yes, I am twelve years old, and I do not plan to take communion, I mean the Catholic communion."

"Why not?"

"Because I am a believer."

"What is a believer?"

"One who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ."

"Oh, you must be a Mason. That is terrible."

"No, I am not a Mason, I am an Evangelical Christian."

"Where do you go to school?"

"I attend the Evangelical School in Belle Vista."

"I see you have been duped by those foreign missionaries. Oh, why did you let yourself in for that?"

"I want you to know we have not been duped. We have only had the Word of God, His precious Book, the Bible, placed in our hands, and then Christ changed our lives."

"Tell me, what does your father think of this foreign idea."

"He is also a believer of Jesus Christ. All of us are. There is nothing foreign about it because the Word of God belongs to all who are willing to accept it."

"Well, we will see just what you know of the Bible. Well, tell me how Jesus was born?"

"He was born of the Virgin Mary, because she had not known Joseph, her husband-to-be. He was disturbed, but the Angel said, 'Be not afraid this child is conceived of the Holy Spirit, take Mary for your wife.'"

Then she answered, "That is right, then why don't you worship the image of the Virgin?"

"We know they are made of sticks and mud. You speak of them as if they were gods. There is only one God, our Father which is in Heaven."

"Oh, you are wrong. They are gods. Do you know of the miracles?"

"What miracles?" the child asked.

"The time when Mount Pichincha was about to erupt and cover us all, except that virgin Saint Mercedes placed her shawl over the crater, and saved us all."

The child answered and said, "That is not true."

"I see you don't believe in the power of the saints to protect us."

"Of course not, they can't even move."

"Sure they can and they are able to walk."

The child said, "You don't mean to tell me that and that they can eat too."

"Say, how far are you traveling?"

"Only to Quito."

"Are you expecting some one to meet you?"

"Yes, my family."

"Will you introduce me to your Father? I want to tell him to have you confess your sins. Do you confess your sins?"

"Yes, but not to a priest. I confess to my Heavenly Father, for He is the only one who can forgive our sins."

"Where does your mother work?"

"She cooks for the school."

What do they pay her for being a Protestant?"

"Nothing, she works for what pay she gets."

"I am sorry for you because you and your parents have given up the kingdom of God."

"Oh, you are so mistaken. The kingdom is for sinners who are forgiven and have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, the ones who are born again having their sins washed away in the blood of the Lamb, and are now His sons and daughters, and are on their way to the Promised Land."

"I am very sorry for you people. You are on the road to Hell. Let me tell you God is first in Heaven, then Christ and the Virgin, next the Popes, then the priests and last the people. No one can get there only by the Priests."

The child answered and said, "I guess the Priests have bought Heaven. And I want you to know the Lord is the righteous judge and will judge each of us by our works."

Now, as they were parting, the Nun turned and said to the child. "Will you pray to the Virgin that your sins will be forgiven and return to the Roman Catholic Church before it is too late. Goodbye."

The next day she told her mother the whole story, how the dear Lord was with her and helped her, giving her courage to stand for the truth. Many times the Mother interrupted and called upon the Lord and thanked Him that her daughter stood firm for the truth and was a witness for the Lord.

Sister E. M. Alltus



Gluttony is the source of all our infirmities and the fountain of all our diseases. As a lamp is choked by a superabundance of oil, and a fire extinguished by excess of fuel, so is the natural health of the body destroyed by intemperate diet. — Burton.

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation, the Lord willing, is looking forward to having Bro. Henry Walker from Pleasant Home Congregation, California with us for a two weeks revival meeting, beginning August 4 continuing through August 18. All are welcome to come and worship with us. Evening services starting at 7:30. Pray for the Meetings that the Lord's will be done in each of us.

During the past months, we rejoiced to receive four persons into the Church. Two accepted Christ as their Saviour and were baptized. Two others were received into Church member fellowship.

We were happy for another Lovefeast occasion, May 26, with worship and the ordinances, and want to thank the following ministers who came to be with us. Brethren: Emmert Shelly, Lavern Keeney, Joshua Rice, Frank Shaffer, Jan Heisey, Paul Hartz, John Pepper, and Virgil Leatherman who officiated in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

THANKS

A special thank you for all the cards, money and gifts that were given to us for our 25th Wedding Anniversary.

May God bless you all. Thank you.

Brother and Sister David Kegerreis



As there is no babe cradled and rocked that has not its mother to bend over it by day and by night, to kiss it as it sleeps, and to cover it with smiles and caresses when it wakes, so every creature that is born into life has a God whose ever-watchful eye, tenderly watches over it by day and by night.



While on the deck of a vessel one evening, at sea, some French infidel officers were denying the existence of God. At length they proposed to get the opinion of Napoleon, who was standing alone wrapt in silent thought. On hearing the question, "Is there a God?" he raised his hand and pointed to the starry firmament, asked: "Gentlemen, who made all that?"

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1985

August 4 - David mourns for Saul and Jonathan - II Sam. 1:1-27.

1. What was David's reaction to the news of King Saul's and Jonathan's deaths?
2. In Matthew 5:43-44 we are told how we are to feel toward those who are our enemies.

August 11 - David anointed King over Judah - II Sam. 2:1-32.

1. Was there opposition to David as King over Israel?
2. What was the result? Can the trouble that issued forth from the bitterness, develop in the Church?

August 18 - David and Abner - II Sam. 3:1-39.

1. What caused Abner to come to David?
2. What was the cause of Joab's hatred of Abner?
3. In whose hands did David rest Joab's judgment?

August 25 - David King of Israel - II Sam. 4:1-12; II Sam. 5:1-25.

1. In times of danger what should God's people do? Was the kingdom of David strengthened?
2. When the people of God are put through the fire of affliction it makes them stronger.

YOUNG PEOPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1985

August 4 - The Candle - Matt. 5:14-16, Mark 4:21, Luke 11:33-36

1. In what way do Christians let their lights shine?
2. If our lights are not shining is there something wrong?
3. Read Eph. 5:8 and Phil. 2:15.

August 11 - The Mustard Seed - Matt. 13:31-32, Mark 4:30, Luke 13:19.

1. What lesson do we learn from the parable of the mustard seed?
2. Where is the Kingdom of God? Is it a visible kingdom?

August 18 - The Salt - Matt. 9:37, Luke 14:34-35, Mark 9:49-50.

1. Is there something in the life of a Christian that has an influence on those in the world?
2. What happens when salt loses its saltiness?

August 25 - Opportunities - Matt. 9:37, Matt. 26:40-41, I Cor. 16:1-11.

1. There are millions of lost souls headed for a Christless eternity, and the only ones who can help them find their way to the Master are the ones who know the Lord Jesus Christ.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

AUGUST 1, 1985

NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

- William Cowper

ALL THE SAME

When God finished creating the world and all within it, He said that it was good. It pleased Him. Everything was made just the way He wanted it. Included in His creation was man. When He created humans He made them male and female.

He made men and women for His purpose and pleasure. Each has strengths and weaknesses. By making both, they could complement each other and work together. One's weakness could be helped by another's strength. For His own reasons and to have perfect order, God made both, each peculiar and different from the other.

But today man has become so educated and independent that he has seriously blurred those differences. Man's thought is of equality. He has determined to make men and women equal when God made them different. Man seems ever determined to do the opposite of what God wants.

This is not to be wondered at, since this has been Satan's program from the beginning. Even in Heaven, Satan was determined to be equal with God. Although he held a lofty position he wanted to be on the same level as God. Men who have chosen to follow Satan have in mind to do things their own way. They have decided men and women can dress, look, act and work alike, although God has made them physically and psychologically different.

Men and women stand equal in God's sight. They both are sinners and need a Saviour. They have the same Holy Spirit and the same hope of Heaven. Here on the earth however because of God's recognition of what is best for each there are differences He has established in their living and activities. Who would know better than the God, who created each, what was best for each one?

Today man, under Satan's dominion, shows his rebellion against

THE BIBLE MONITOR

AUGUST 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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God's plan. On the streets, in the schools, in the business place and in places of pleasure we see the lines between men and women being blurred more and more. Often when seen on the streets it is difficult to distinguish the men from the women. Unisex hair styles and dress have broken down God's laws pertaining to the physical appearance of each.

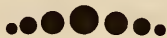
The Bible carries many admonitions concerning personal appearance. While these laws have been almost totally ignored by the people of this world, whether sinners or professing Christians, they still are as much in force as in the past. Today women wear garments designed for men without thinking twice about it. The recent hair styles adopted from morally bankrupt musicians make their hair longer than God intended for men and shorter than He intended for women. Not only have women borrowed men's clothing but men have in turn taken jewelry and make-up from women. This whole style of dress is an abomination to God and should be not merely a curiosity but a deep distress to Christians.

The workplace has become another place of man's version of equality. Today women are seen in almost every line of work. This includes not only the more arduous forms of work but also in recreational activities, where young women are being increasingly found participating in male-dominated sports. This breaking down of occupational lines of demarcation brings us closer to a false equality.

It is false for it encourages the women to enter the work force instead of staying home to keep house, raise the children and care for her husband. As these things remain undone there will be many consequences in the future. In the past one of the complaints against certain dictatorial governments was that they required the women to work outside the home and leave raising the children to the state. Now we are approaching a similar situation.

Today the activities of men and women have become very similar. The long established laws of God are being violated with impunity. There will be a price to pay. Just as Satan's rebellion will be punished, so will man's.

God made men and women. They are not all the same.



How often we look upon God as our last and feeblest resource! We go to him because we have nowhere else to go. And then we learn that the storms of life have driven us, not upon the rocks, but into the desired haven. — Geo. Macdonald.

ARE YOU READY TO DATE?

Many arguments between teens and parents would be eliminated if the Bible said, "Thou shalt not date until thou art seventeen years old." Teen who wish to follow God's Word would know when they could begin dating. Parents could point to the chapter and verse when pestered by their teens to be allowed to date. But unfortunately, the Bible doesn't say how old a person should be when he or she begins courting. In fact, the Bible really doesn't even mention dating. In Bible times, most marriages were arranged by the parents. How would you young people like that arrangement?

Today, most marriages in our culture are not arranged by parents. Rather, two young people somehow become acquainted and gradually become interested in knowing one another better. This interest is not always very gradual! It is tragic when boy and girl suddenly marry without really developing a close friendship with each other. I know of a couple who did marry only a few months after they became acquainted. They "fell in love" and "knew they were for each other." Today this couple is separated and divorced.

There is a place for proper Christian Courtship. Marriage is a very serious step. Those who are contemplating marriage should be very sure of two things: (1) That they're marrying the right partner, and (2) that they are ready to be the right partner. The question we will dwell on here is, "Are you the right partner?"

Dating is a wonderful privilege but it carries with it an awesome responsibility. Sometimes I think we should give a "love test." If the person passed, he or she would receive a "dating license." If he or she failed the test, he or she could not date until he or she took the test over and passed. Maybe this would help eliminate some of the deep wounds and scars that many people carry throughout life. Only people who really understood what genuine love is all about would be allowed to date.

You are not ready to date until God is first in your life. When you care more about pleasing Him than anyone or anything else, you are ready to date. But what does God have to do with dating? There are many responsibilities that go along with dating. Among these is moral purity. God has alot to say in His Word about being pure. People who commit fornication are headed for hellfire. Even if they repent and are forgiven, there are scars that remain for the remainder of their lives.

How do you put God first in your life? First, accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Then learn to acknowledge Christ in all your activities by being aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in you continually. Understand that God's purpose for dating is to learn

to know one another on the spirit level. Achieving spiritual oneness in dating occurs as both seek to get as close to God as they can in their personal lives. This comes about through personal, daily Bible study, prayer and meditation on Scripture. Read a portion of Scripture and pray together on dates. Ask each other what was learned through Bible study. Share how the Lord has specifically answered prayer in your life. Recite the verses you learned for the week and tell each other what you learned through meditating on those verses.

The young man is responsible for spiritual leadership. The young lady should be a spiritual example and challenge to him. As the couple draws closer to the Lord, they draw closer to each other. They experience a deepening fellowship and a greater ability to communicate. They are building a solid foundation for a Christ-centered marriage. Should the couple break up, there won't be the deep wounds of being used on the physical level.

When couples learn to know one another on the physical level before the spiritual level, a cloud of guilt develops between each one and the Lord. Deep down they realize that their desires are contrary to God's desires. This results in destroying the communication between them. Instead of growing in oneness and fellowship, they are driven apart on the spiritual level. They are set up for an unhappy and broken marriage.

The purpose of dating is to develop a spiritual intimacy that will carry your marriage through a lifetime. Engagement is the time to learn to know one another on the soul level (mind, will, and emotions). The physical level is to be reserved until after the marriage vows are spoken.

You are ready to date when:

- a. You understand both the purpose and dangers of dating.
- b. You work out a list of God's standards for dating.
- c. You purpose to live up to God's standards, even if it means losing dates.

When God is number one in your life, He has promised to lead you (see Proverbs 3:5-6). You can experience the happiest and most loving marriage possible! Through Jesus Christ you can overcome Satan's temptations concerning immorality. You will experience true joy and happiness as you watch God show Himself strong through your life!

Young person, God is calling you today. If you've never committed your life to Christ, do it now. Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be

saved." If you've already accepted Christ, won't you recommit your life to God, and make Him number one in your life today?

Brother Robert Leigh
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1925

THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Glenn Cripe

There is a great cry — How can we save our young people? This cry is heard far and near. It even comes into our own homes. It is a lamentable fact that many of the young are lost to the church and to God. It is folly to save them to the church and not to God, but that seems to be the method that the modern church leaders would have us use.

Let us look at the prodigal son: he would not be content with his lot at home and so he asked for his inheritance and left; so it is today. There are those who are not content in the good old gospel way, it is too straight for them, they desire the things of the world and so they say that if they can't have them in the church they will go elsewhere. Here is where the church can learn. The father of the prodigal son left him go while the church the father of its members instead of letting them go, it brings the sinful things of the world in to amuse the wayward sons, and by so doing it defiles itself. When the son had fallen deep in sin then he saw his mistake and all the good he had missed and repenting he went back to his father's house to ask to be lifted from his miserable condition to that of a servant; when he drew near his father's house the father came to meet him and made him not a servant but a son again. So with the church. It can keep itself pure and full of the good things of God then when the prodigal sons have repented they will come back and be made the sons of God again. But if the church has defiled itself by bringing in the ways and filth of the world where shall the repentant sons go? Here is a lesson for the leaders of today. Keep the church pure and if she is not pure then cleanse her then the repentant sons of man will have a place of refuge.

The young can repent and be children of God without going as deep into sin as the prodigal son did but there are those who will follow the ways of the world in spite of all you can do to save them, and they must remember that the wages of sin is death and to keep that sin in the church is to keep death there. Revelation 3 says regarding the church at Sardis, "I know thy works, that hast a

name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come upon thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Here we have a church with a name that it was alive, and we are told that our church is doing more big things for God than it ever did before; but the spirit said that that church was dead, and possibly it might say that the Church of the Brethren is dead. The church is warned that it must be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die. How about plain dressing for men and women, song without instruments, and all the other distinctions that made us the children of God? We must hold fast to them for they are a part of the rock foundation Jesus Christ upon which we build. When we let them slip God will come as he promised, as a thief in the night and we shall be swept into the current that all popular, worldly, sinful churches are lost in.

Let us cleanse the church then the problem of the young will have been solved and all of our worry and disturbance of mind will cease because we will have done all that it is possible for the church to do. To leave the church in its defiled condition is only tempting the faithful and hastening their fall. Many a sister has changed from the bonnet to the hat because some other one wore a hat and nothing was done about it; if the blind lead the blind they shall all fall in the ditch. The scripture says that if the eye offend pluck it out, and if the hand should offend cut it off. It is better that one should die than that all should perish.

In the scripture you will find the record of many young people. Some were good and walked in the ways of God and some did not. You will also find how God dealt with them. Can man improve on God's ways? If Christ could not save all how can we expect to?

Preserve the church of our fathers, the true church of God in its purity and plainness; then the young who will do so can be saved not only for the church but also for God.

IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK

I do feel, dear ones, we are living in the last days. I can't think of a time when the world was in a worse state than it is today. So much evil going on. Little children being raped, many being killed, and so many are kidnaped and some are never found, people and stores being robbed. It seems there is no end to the violence going on. People are afraid to go out on the street even in daylight, for fear they will be molested. School children are afraid to go to school. So many young boys and girls are on dope and have drinking problems and their parents are not aware. Many are living together

as man and wife and have never married and have small children. Oh, the sin they are committing every day.

Some claim to be people who once loved the Lord and started out giving their life to Christ, but now never go to church. When we read the story of Noah and the ark, the people then would not harken to the Word of God. I am sure when Noah and his family entered the ark, the people were confused, but it was too late. The door of the ark was closed and they were lost.

Dear ones, if you are still wandering out there in sin there is a way of escape, for the door is still open. But it is later than you are aware of. The way to Christ may soon be closed and then you won't have another chance. Christ gave His precious life on the cross to save you. Are you doing anything about it? Are you counting the cost? It does not cost as much to follow Christ, for in the end we will receive a reward, a home in Heaven. But if you are on the road Satan has, you will receive as your reward a home in Hell, where you will burn forever and ever. Won't you stop and think about these two places, then make your way to the house of the Lord and start on the road that will give you a home of joy and peace?

Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Here they were in sin but were not willing to harken. They were destroyed. If we turn our back on Christ we are lost.

Are we spreading the Gospel to those who are lost. There are so many places we could go and reach the unsaved. Are we willing to give of our time to get the message of Salvation to the lost?

In the early Church they held services in a home if there was no other place to hold services. I have been told some times in a barn chairs were brought in and they would have a large crowd and many were won to Christ. They so desired to spread the Gospel to all they could reach. Before long they had enough members to start a Church in that place. I often wonder why that could not be done today.

There are many today hungry to hear the message of Salvation. Is this a Christian America? Today, people are married for a short time, then divorce and remarry another. Sixty years ago we had plenty to eat, wages were not high, food was not as high as it is today, but wages have tripled. There is no reason for people to be without food. There are so many who don't know how to manage their budget. If they only knew how to buy, they would be able to get along. Let us pray that the poor will be fed and the sick have daily care, and we can continue to live for Christ and the Church till Christ sees fit to call us Home.

Sister E. M. Alltus

1985 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from July 15, 1985 Issue

SUNDAY P.M.

Bro. Jacob Ness Opened, Genesis 32:24-32

Jacob was seeking something. He was concerned to make peace again. May each one seek a blessing for being here.

Bro. Herman Jamison, I Cor. 5, Changing or Purifying the Church.

Satan is very busy. Why wouldn't he attack the Church? Indeed it is a serious thing to be a Christian. Is there anything we might hide from the Lord? We should search our lives to see if there is anything hid in our lives. The tongues boasteth great things. The small things can injure the Church. Could the Devil be working through me to hinder me to work in the Church? The Church is working for the Lord. We notice the big sin in peoples lives, but we forget the many little sins could be eating at our heart. Will we allow the many small sins to come into our heart and cause us to fall? Are some of these little sins working into our Church? Each of us are the Church. We must seek God's help that we don't fall and let those little sins in our lives affect the Church. We made that vow we would resist Satan in his pernicious ways. Be strong in the Lord with a living, true faith in Him. Divorce and remarriage is a great sin getting into the Churches of the land. Social drinking is another great sin in the World. It's hard to see our own sin. It's much easier to see the sin in other people's lives. Pride is another sin that could come into our lives. God hates a proud look. Hatred is another sin. It can get into our hearts. Jealousy could get into hearts. Slothful, not being willing to work for the Lord. Tale-bearing or gossip is a very sinful state to get into. Some are too busy to visit the sick or dear ones who are falling away from the faith. We must keep this binding faith that the Church stay pure and free from sin.

Bro. Charles Leatherman, Matt. 6:19-37

We are mindful this afternoon of the handiwork of God. We think of the Heavens and everything He created in the world. The Lord wants us to serve Him with all our hearts. If we are striving to live a good life like Job, Satan may try to destroy us. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Job probably suffered more than any man has suffered. He still did not complain or lose his faith and trust in God. Many things could come into our lives that could cause us much distress. Jesus can help us if we ask Him to get us out of distress. Satan is out to deceive us. We must stick together and keep our faith in our beloved Savior.

Bro. Harley Rush Closed.

How great is your faith? How great is my faith? Let us serve the Lord. It is important for us to live a Christlike life.

SUNDAY EVENING

Bro. Robert Carpenter Opened.

Sometimes things don't go as good as we think they should. This is down time in our life. Christ is our need for humanity. Christ died for all the sins of the people.

Bro. Virgil Leatherman, Matt. 5:38-48

We learned how our lives should be governed by the Bible. What is a Christian? A Christian should be Christ-like. We may be asked who is a Christian? Some Christians go to church. Some Christians read the Bible. Some Christians belong to an organization and we think they are a Christian. We should be humble if we want to be a Christian. We should have the mind of Christ. Some Christians try to get by with very little work for the Lord. If we want to get something out of something we have to give something of ourselves. We must go to Church to help others. A true Christian will be ready to help in the Lord's work. The extra things that we do is what counts. The world looks on us and notices us doing the extra things as a Christian. Jesus said if we are asked to go one mile go two. If any many has not the mind of Christ he is none of His. Jesus said, love your enemies, pray for them that despitefully use you. Does Christ live within your heart? Do you love your enemies? Do you pray for them that despitefully use you? Let's try to live Christ-like.

Bro. Edward Johnson, Our Speaker for the Young People,
Joel 3:14, From the Valley to the Mountain.

How high on the mountain do you see our beloved Church? Or do you see our beloved Church in the valley? What have you seen when you traveled in the valley? The valleys are filled with prisons and hospitals for those with disturbed minds. There are people who tasted of drugs to get high. Don't ever be eager to be in the valley of sin. Broken homes are in the valley. We don't see Jesus in the valley. Mountain climbing started way back when Noah built the ark. When the floods came every one perished in the valley. People tried to climb the mountain during the flood to no avail. Let us take a good look and start climbing the mountain of Zion. Where did Jesus go to teach His first sermon? He went up on the mountain. He drew the people out of the valley of sin. Jesus took James, John and Peter high up on the mountain to instruct them. Men are bitten today by sin. Jesus went up to the mountain just before His resurrection. The valley is the low standard of living. The mountain is the high standard of living. It's living

for Christ. You've got to climb to get to the top. Come out from the unclean thing and I will receive you. Jesus is still calling you. He says, "Come and follow me."

Bro. Ray Reed Closed.

You young people had a perfect standard laid out for you. You have learned the way of Salvation.

MONDAY A.M.

Bro. Alvin Chupp, Romans 12:1

Have we searched the Scriptures to solve our problems? We need the love of Jesus if we have the hurtful feeling. We need the power of Jesus to heal us of those hurts. We need a power over the Devil. The Devil uses anything he can to get in his power to deceive you. He knows when you have hurtful minds. He likes to weaken your faith at this time. He tries harder and harder to discourage you. We can ask of our Heavenly Father for the healing of our hurtful minds. He can heal our minds and take away our unfaithfulness in our hearts. We cannot take care of any problem ourselves. When something is wrong between you and someone you must immediately ask forgiveness on your part. Our mission here on this earth is to forgive him if he has hurt our feelings.

Bro. Henry Walker Closed.

We need a transformation in our very life. We can be a living sacrifice for Jesus. We need to turn our lives over to Him. We can do it for Him because He first loved us.

MONDAY P.M.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer Opened, Romans 6.

We must give ourselves to God. Put away the old man and be as a new creature. It all depends how much of our life we have given to God whether we will get that reward prepared for us. We must give our lives to God and live like He wants us to live. The only way we can have victory over Satan and sin is to yield our whole lives holy towards God.

Bro. Michael Wray, Romans 1:18-25, Secular Humanism — Exchanging Truth for the Lie.

I will build my church on the solid rock Christ. What is the basis of the falling of man in this world. It is impossible to worship God and mammon. Man has changed the truth of God into a lie. The lie we are about goes way back to ages in prophesy. Satan deceived Mother Eve way back in the Garden of Eden. Man still has the same old problem that he can become equal with God. The

principle belief of the Athiest is their teaching saying God is not alive. It is false to believe that there is a Heaven and we will get an Eternal Reward after death. These are very untrue statements. In the beginning God created the world and all that is in it. Man was called to deny himself, take up the cross and follow Him. Humanists try to say the world is better today. They are telling the untruth. Don't try to walk and live the life of Jesus until you have a transformation of the mind. The Bible is very clear how we are to govern our lives by the teaching of the Scriptures. There are so many sins in the world today. Romans 10:3. God is saying very clearly to us, we don't have capability to handle our problems. God wants us to focus on the Lord Jesus Christ and His true teachings.

Bro. William Heisey, Exodus 14, The Way is Provided by God.

The children of Israel murmured against Moses. Moses told them to stand still and they will get salvation and help of the Lord. We can't get anything unless we put forth an action. We must be submissive to His Word. Men are creatures of falling. We must follow and obey the teachings of God. God was with the children of Israel and divided the Red Sea so they could walk across on dry land. God will clear the problems in our lives if we ask Him. We must live true to Him. We must follow Christ and His teachings to gain Eternal Life. As we go through this life we continually have Satan about us trying to discourage our faith. God is a just God. We must not doubt Him in any way. What God said in the Bible He will do. We must not have unbelief or it will get us confused and we will lose faith. We must not allow anything to come between us and God because it will cause us to fall. Are we going to be ready when Christ comes again to call His Church Home?

Bro. Paul Stump Closed leading in prayer.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Poverty.... a Spiritual or Social Issue?

We are living in an affluent society. Most of our basic needs and some luxuries are provided. And even though we fundamentally rebel against affluence we still take advantage of all that it seems to afford.

Poverty has not and will not cease to exist. It is reported that nearly twenty-two million Americans live on a poverty level income, some being undernourished and without proper medical help. Very few of us care enough about this situation to be involved on a person-to-person basis. We have been salving our consciences

with the idea that the problem belongs to the government. Again, some even conservative Christians suggest that our standard of compassion should not be how much worse things could be, but how much better off our poor are than the other poor people of the world.

Could it be that the computer is replacing compassion in dealing with other peoples' needs by Christians and the church? The Communist solution is simply to take away from the "haves" and give to the "have nots." As we would examine this philosophy we will find that government force does not eliminate poverty but simply creates a total situation of minimal subsistence at the advantage of an elite leadership. What do we need then? How might we help to bring about a better condition for the poor to whom we have a continuing responsibility?

The first factor of solution is sacrifice. We must learn the necessity of sacrificing for the benefit of others. This might be in the giving of our time, our labor, or our money. It will involve applying Christ's compassion for the needy to our personal lives and seeking to live a Spirit filled life of service.

Secondly, we will need moral courage. This might well require the revising and reversing of our attitudes toward others. It will involve putting our reputations and possibly our lives on the line for the cause of right. It really takes courage today to be generous. Many inside and outside of the church will see us as foolish and "not planning for our own futures" when we reach out to others in this way.

Generosity will need to be practiced. You will need to seek out opportunities to express yourself in self-giving love. With the creed in hand and heart that "The poor you have with you always..." some will not feel generous and will actually remain aloft toward those in need. Of course the early church took care of these needs. They had an efficient antipoverty program. We need only to reestablish their approach. If we do this, we will not "leave it up to the government" but will champion right attitudes and actions to generate better care of other's needs.

Poverty is not just a political problem that can be solved by great amounts of money. It is a spiritual problem. Only Christianity has the solution. And remember, that solution does not require that we participate in the welfare department of the government. It means, rather, that we will open up our bowels of compassion... that we will open our eyes to the needs of others. It means that you will never treat people differently because of their ragged, outward appearance.

And, it is a way to reach the soul. Jesus fed thousands of people spiritual food at the Sermon on the Mount and could have just have

gone on home and determined that He had done all that was required of Him. But he also took care of their carnal needs. He filled their stomachs as well as their minds. How about you? Will you catch the vision of really caring and sharing in the needs of others? Will you attack the source of their misfortune to reach them for Christ?

Brother Leonard Wertz

OBITUARY

HENRY FLORY

Bro. Henry Peter Flory was born February 19, 1894 to Jacob B. and Mary (Weis) Flory and departed this life on May 31, 1985, at the age of 91 years, 3 months and 12 days.

His entire life was spent on the Adams Township, Defiance County, Ohio, home place, fulfilling a long time desire to leave this earthly abode in the same room where he was born.

He was united in marriage to Agnes Shock on April 16, 1916, who passed away March 18, 1924. On April 23, 1927, he was united in marriage to Abbie Rupp, who preceded him in death on February 9, 1946.

He is survived by two sons, Claude L. of Pioneer, Ohio and Harley T. at the home place, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

In 1904 he accepted his Lord as Saviour and through Christian baptism became a member of the North Popular Ridge German Baptist Brethren Church. In 1926 he became a charter member of the Beaver Creek Dunkard Brethren Church, near Bryan, Ohio, and several years later transferred his membership to the Pleasant Ridge Congregation near West Unity, Ohio, where he remained a faithful member for more than 50 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two companions, one great-granddaughter, Roxanne Flory, a brother Edward in 1957, and two sisters, Minnie Clapper in 1979, and Stella Rupp in 1981.

Gone is the soul that we have loved,

And father is at rest --

His work is done; he sleeps in peace

Among the Master's best.

His work is finished on the earth,

And his rewards are won --

Nor would we weep or shed a tear

Because his work is done;

But rather we should face the world,
As fathers always do --
With eyes upturned to face the light
Of each kind day anew.

Elder H. Edward Johnson assisted by Bro. Dennis St. John officiated at the funeral on June 3, 1985.

We wish to express our thanks to all who gave assistance and help in any way during the sickness and passing of our loved one. Your prayers were much appreciated and may God's blessing be upon each of you.

The family

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation, the Lord willing, will have their Harvest Meeting August 25. Bro. Robert Carpenter will be the speaker.

Come enjoy these services with us. A hearty welcome to all.
Sister Ruth Kleinhenn, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans a revival meeting September 1 through September 8, with Bro. Leonard Wertz of Quinter, Kansas as our evangelist.

We welcome all who can to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

LOST AND FOUND

At the Maranatha Camp Ground, North Platte, Nebraska at the conclusion of 1985 General Conference there was:

Lost — 1 young man's black, Swedish-knit, plain-cut coat.

Found — 1 umbrella style baby stroller.

If you found the lost item or lost the found item please contact:

Bro. Jerry Moss
R.R. #1 Box 235 B
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

AUGUST 15, 1985

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE WORD OF GOD

The word of God is like a light
That shines serenely thro' the night,
Its rays will light my weary way
To the realms of a fair, unending day.

The word of God is like a sword
That pierces hearts, thus saith the Lord;
And like a hammer, weighty, strong,
That can break up the rocks of sin and wrong.

The word of God is like the bread
On which the hosts of old were fed;
From heav'n it came to fill our need,
Hungry hearts it will satisfy indeed.

The word of God is like a fire,
It kindles in our heart's desire
To see its Author face to face
And to know all the fullness of His grace.

- Haldor Lillenas

THE PRICE OF A LIE

Throughout the Bible are numerous admonitions concerning truthfulness and honesty. Jesus describes Satan as a liar and the father of lies. From various incidents in the Bible we can see what a terrible price must be paid because of a lie.

Lies often take the form of deceit or fraud. Our first ancestors, Adam and Eve were led astray by the serpent's lie. Appearing as a serpent, Satan caused Eve to forego many blessings because she believed his lie. Adam and Eve believed the lie, acted upon it and thereby lost their perfect home in the Garden, they lost their innocence and they lost eternal life. No longer perfect they gave to their descendants a nature that was tainted with worldliness rather than with Godliness. This shows the price of believing the lie of another.

But not only are we to be careful about what we believe from the lips of others but we must take care of what we say and do ourselves. Paul in speaking (Philippians 4:8) of our thoughts said that honesty should be one of the qualifications that would filter our thoughts. Our honesty in deeds is a reflection of our thoughts so they must first be honest. This would disqualify the so-called "white lie" used by even Christians.

There are many instances of lies and the price required throughout the Bible. Even Abraham lied to protect Sarah but got caught in it. Christians may feel justified by that but they can not take any solace in the sins of another, even if it were Abraham. Each must bear his own burden of sin and pay the price for a lie. That price may be monetary or imprisonment or just regret or embarrassment for being caught like Abraham.

Other instances were more serious. Judas Iscariot professed a

THE BIBLE MONITOR**AUGUST 15, 1985**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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great care for the poor but his real interest was his own greed. A false concern or hypocritical attitude are lies and there will be a price exacted. The same greed that made Judas a hypocrite also made him a betrayer. When he realized the taint of the thirty pieces of silver it was too late and he died a suicide's death.

In I Samuel 31 an account is given of the death of Saul and his sons. He died a suicide, falling on his own sword. The battle went against Israel and his family. Saul had to pay the price for his various sins. His sins had separated him from God. In the midst of grief over his sons' deaths, suffering from his wounds and fear of falling into the hands of the Philistines, he now was willing to end his own life. His armor-bearer would not take Saul's life but yet committed suicide himself.

In II Samuel 1, we have another account of what supposedly happened at the time of Saul's death. The young man, who came to David with this account, apparently happened on the scene shortly after Saul died. He got there before the Philistines so he was able to pick up Saul's crown and bracelet. With these objects as proof of being there, he went to David. He probably thought that David would reward him for killing Saul. Supposedly Saul was not yet dead when he happened on the scene so Saul requested him to kill him. This young man surely did not realize that David had had at least two opportunities to kill Saul himself but had foregone the chance because Saul was God's anointed king.

After the young man told his story instead of receiving a reward as he expected, David ordered that he in turn be killed. He had killed the Lord's anointed — at least — he said that he had. This demanded the utmost price — his life. David, who had saved the life of the Lord's anointed, could not allow this one to speak of killing the Lord's anointed so blithely and easily. His lie cost him his life. What he thought would please David ended up angering him.

These examples from the Bible should serve as warnings to those of us who read them. The same God who oversaw and dealt with these liars of old still sits on Heaven's Throne. He knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts and souls. One of the attributes of God is Truth. He can not abide that which at all compromises that characteristic. A lie cannot come from God but from Satan the father of it.

We must learn from these Biblical lessons so we would ever be true. Don't let a lie cost you what it cost these others.



It is impossible to govern the world without God. He must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligation. — Washington.

NOT NOW

There is agony for us when we must wait on the Lord. We don't understand and we can't see that it's better to wait when we want God to do something now. A prompt "yes" or "no" is easier to cope with, but a "not now" or a "not yet" causes us great distress. "Wait", "not now", "just be patient and the answer will come" are words we don't like to hear because it is against human nature to wait. Yet, at times, that is exactly what we must do.

Waiting on the Lord teaches us to trust, to realize that God has a time for all things. Having to wait is not a reason to think God no longer cares, or that He has forgotten us. It's just that our time is not God's time. A hasty answer to our prayers would pacify us but it might also cheat us out of what God really wants to give us. Having to wait is often evidence of God's love and concern for us, and His desire to give us His best. Our part in waiting is to trust God to do what's best at the perfect time.

Two war orphans, a brother and sister, prayed to be adopted by Christian parents. They kept hoping and waiting. Then word came that they along with many other orphans were to be taken to a neighboring country for possible adoption. It was a long train ride with many stops, and at each one, children were adopted on the spot.

As each stop left these two unadopted, the little girl became very discouraged. She thought Jesus had been too busy to hear their prayers and she was heartbroken at the thought of not being adopted. At the next-to-last stop, this brother and sister were both taken home by a woman who was impressed by their faith in God. The little girl made her think of someone she knew but only after she had taken them home did she and her husband learn that they were her sister's children (she had never seen them).

Not only were these children given a Christian home, but it was a very special one. Only God could have worked this out; it wasn't mere luck. If God had answered their prayer at the first stop, these orphans wouldn't have received the greatest possible blessing. For them, it certainly was worth it to wait, even though the waiting itself caused much distress. It is worth it too, for us to wait for God's best, even when it hurts.

"God makes us wait until we have no further resources of our own, no strength left." The greatest blessings often come after much waiting, after our hope is almost or entirely gone. Allowing us to go our limit, to reach the end of our rope brings us to where we totally depend on God. We recognize Him as our strength, and when the answer comes, we know it is totally God's doing.

"We haven't trusted God until we've trusted Him for the impossible."

We know that "with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26), but we often forget this. When a situation arises where we have no solution, no way out, God may say "not now", but He'll never say "I can't." He wants us to reach out to Him in faith, even though everything looks hopeless. While we wait, God wants us to believe that He can help us, even when it looks impossible to us. This faith should be part of our prayers also. See Mark 11:24.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa. 40:29-31. Read also verse 28.

God does not become weary, but we do. His strength doesn't decrease, but ours does. Even the young (usually the most hardy) will faint eventually, but God won't. We may need to wait awhile, we may hear a "not now", but eventually God will come to our aid. Whatever the situation is, God understands and has the perfect answer. He'll renew us and give us strength to go on, to do whatever is required. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart." Psalms 27:14.

Waiting on God is part of our proper preparation — preparation to receive the answers to our prayers, and preparation for Eternity. It is a bit like the difference between cookie dough and baked cookies. The dough tastes good, but the baked product, the one properly prepared, has the lasting qualities — the best ones. Preparation takes time, but it's worth it in the long run. It does take time and it may be painful as God prepares us, but it's worth the waiting.

The Psalmist wrote in Psalms 37:7, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." If God has told you "not now" and you are greatly distressed, ask Him to help you to rest in His care. Don't fret and worry, but be quiet and patient. Wait with contentment, knowing God hasn't forsaken you. This is not easy, but it's God's way, and it is worth it to wait on Him. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life." Prov. 13:12.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554



A deity without personality, and hence without consciousness, is no more capable of awakening the sense of religion in the heart of man than is the all-pervading air of the universal force of gravitation. — O'Brien.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Modern Gospel Music"

The conservative church is taking up many important issues in these last times. It addresses abortion and humanism but seems to take a less aggressive stand on music which affects the greatest number of her members. For this reason, I will attempt to cover this topic as thoroughly as I can to help you in this important area of your life.

One of the factors that makes this such a timely subject is the fact that some of the reliable media are forecasting that gospel music will grow over the next few years to be where country music is today. The Saturday Evening Post has said recently that "The new gospel is bursting out of the traditional religious arena. The religious MARKET has greater potential than rock music." This was a quote from the deputy president of CBS record company. In addition, he said, "It is the music of the age, no doubt about it!"

The music industry people estimate that over ninety million Americans identify with the born-again experience. This group is thought to compose the nation's largest single "sub-culture" and is a tremendous market for gospel music promoters.

There are around a thousand music groups in the "MOR" music scene today. These are the "middle of the roaders" who center their music on Jesus and His love without revealing the need for dedication and commitment. There are over five hundred gospel groups that travel around the country routinely and these groups take in over fifty-million dollars each year. The very term "middle-of-the-road" should repel us as we think of the compromise it represents. We need only to read Revelations 3:14 to understand the outcome of this "luke-warmness!"

Some of the best known of gospel music's superstars today are what are known as "cross overs." These individuals or groups have made the transition from gospel to popular music. The "reverse crossovers" are those who have made a name for themselves in the secular music world before identifying with the gospel music scene. Why would they come over to gospel, you ask? Simple! It is a very profitable area of music and money is the name of their game! Some of these people might include Bob Dylan, B. J. Thomas, Donna Summer, Barbara Mandrell, Dion, Johnny Cash, Pat and Debbie Boone and the Imperials.

There are many gospel music entertainers in the seven figure income bracket. They use sophisticated agents and public relations teams from secular music world to help them market their music and their radio time sales alone last year amounted to nearly fifty million

dollars.

An influential member of the gospel music industry recently stated that "there is no style of music that can't be enjoyed by Christians... why, they are actually using disco, rock, and rhythm and blues styles." This person heads up Light Record Company, one of the largest in the country.

We are all familiar with John 1:1... "In the beginning was the word..." The "Word" that many Christians are familiar with is the Word Record Club out of Waco, Texas. This club, to which many conservative church members belong, is owned by ABC Television Company. They know where the money is! Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California, heads up "Maranatha" Record Company.

"It is difficult to put heavy philosophical emphasis into popular songs," Bill Gaither commented recently, "but we are finding that people are 'grooving' on heavier ideas." Another well known music personality said that he has no trouble with the beat or the lyrics of modern music but lyrics centered on a "cozy" personal devotion to Jesus turns people off.

It is interesting that Evie and her husband record more traditional albums than gospel. Complimentary to that type of action is the statement by Stan Moser of Word Records who says, "Music, money and ministry are not necessarily incompatible!"

As a Christian you should not feel comfortable listening to much of the music which is popular with many so called Christians. The life style they are living and their tastes are not compatible with God's Word. With the erosion of Christianity comes the eroding of its music.

Paul wrote to Timothy in Chapter 4:2-3, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; rebuke, reprove, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." Paul was writing about TODAY.

What we see in music in the church is a manifestation of these words. Sounds are so loud that they literally bounce off the walls... the sound is rock... with electric guitars, drums, electric organs and other rhythmic accompaniment. Traditional hymns turn out to be not so traditional. Hymns as "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Amazing Grace" are ruined in this way. The gestures and actions in these "performances" are just like those of rock groups... swinging hips and all. The music styles are crooned into hand mikes and delivered with polish and spit... and are very much like a night club act. What they are saying in the message is a contradiction to their presentation.

The sounds of modern gospel music are very frustrating... like rowing upstream in a leaky boat using only a spoon to paddle with... trying to be kept from being swept over a falls.

The messages of the songs are getting more and more pseudo-religious with vague messages at the best. It is definitely time to tighten the reins on the sounds that we listen to. We are becoming so preoccupied with the "comtemporary" thing that we have become prey to the world... like a gigantic whirlpool... that is sucking us into its orbit and dragging us steadily down to spiritual compromise.

To be continued
Brother Leonard Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1925

THE HIRELING PASTOR

B. F. Wampler

Webster defines the hireling, as follows: "Serving for hire; taking pay; hence venal; mercenary." And Webster quotes Bancroft "No savage mother ever trusted her babe to a hireling nurse."

Neither will we expect Christ to trust his bride (church) to a hireling clergy, after reading John 10, 11, 12 and 13.

"I am the good shepherd." The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them and scattereth the sheep,

"The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."

Thus it is made so plain — there is no excuse for trusting an hireling to shepherd the Lord's people, when the enemy, in whatever form, seeks to scatter and destroy them. And those who seek to hire them are as guilty as those whom they would hire. For if there were no "hire" there would be no hirelings. After reading Christ's words it is natural for those who wish to follow unchristian ways to "hire" a shepherd who will allow them to go astray, and give the wolf the advantage he seeks. And no wonder with the great number of hirelings, the religious professors are scattered into hundreds of different sects, all crying "Lo, here is Christ, and there." But the Lord says, "Believe them not." We are commanded to "try the spirits whether they are of God."

We notice the churches who hire the clergy (and even some of the others) are becoming more and more worldly. And those who seek hire seem to have no faith or trust either in God or their church, else they would freely fulfill their mission and trust the Lord and their church for any needs they could not supply, working with their own hands, as did Christ, Paul and others. And like many preachers and

layman do at present. If they had the faith of a grain of mustard seed, or an oyster and not so much of the wisdom of the world, which "is foolishness with God," they would fulfill their mission without bargaining with men for support. While "it is more blessed to give than to receive," yet the preachers, schooled in the schools that turn out the hirelings, are the most persistent beggars.

They claim pay for their schooling and great wisdom. But we (laymen) must compare what they teach with the Bible, (else the wolf might get us) and who is to pay us for our time in doing this?

Is our time worth nothing, or must we wait for the final judgment for our reward? It is hardly fair to ask us to pay them for "teaching for doctrine and commandments of men" and then ask us to wait so long for our reward, especially since there will be no reward for such work. And if we all demand hire for what we do here, where is all the hire to come from?

They tell us "the laborer is worthy of his hire." Yes, when Christ sent out the seventy disciples, he told them to "eat and drink such things as were given them" (not bargained for) "For the laborer is worthy of his hire." But not a hint here that Christ or anybody else "hired" them. And not a hint that they were hirelings, as defined by Webster, or those Christ condemned. And it requires a great stretch of imagination to so class them.

The Apostle Paul labored with his own hands, night and day, to keep from being an expense to others, and taught as recorded (II Tim. 10:5) "casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." And Christ said (John 2:16) "Make not my house a house of merchandise." And II Peter 2:15, "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." And the old Bible condemned the money system. (Micah 3:11) "The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divide for money."

We can't bribe the Holy Spirit to lead us, neither will the Holy Spirit bribe us with hire. It must be a free will service or it is not the service Christ demands or expects in a bride, he wants a pure bride, not one that will bribe or be bribed, hire or be hired.

We resent the idea that the hirelings are the only ones that work or labor. Christ says (Matt. 5:16) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." This applies to all. And Paul says (II Thess. 3:10) "This we command you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." All are "commanded" to work, or not eat, hence from the "hirelings" plan all should be guaranteed a salary, and all who do not labor to let their light shine before others are a detriment to the church and destroy its

influence for good over the unconverted world.

Let's make a bonfire of the creeds,
And take the Bible as it reads,
If you would have a shepherd true,
Follow the one who died for you.
So we will let the hirelings flee,
For Christ is good enough for me.

PRAYER

"Not my will but thine be done." I believe the greatest benefit we receive from prayer is how it calms and heals those terrible heartaches, when we feel we are alone and forsaken. If we go to Him in prayer, we feel He is near and will help us over those trying times.

Teach me, Dear Lord, to be kind and forgiving to those who have not been kind to me. Whatever my lot shall be, in all events especially in a trying time, when one is almost at wit's end, Help me, Dear Lord, to put self aside and look to You, as You are always near in time of trouble. Thou hast been my guide and hast never forsaken me.

May we be able to hide all our heartaches and the terrible pains we feel. Help us to be the only one who suffers. Help us to use these pains of suffering that come in our pathway to be more like Thee. Help us Lord at all times to strive to live close to the pattern You have set for Your dear ones to follow. Guard our tongues that they speak no evil of anyone, only the things that will build up in that Holy Faith. We realize we have no better friend than you.

If we are united together as Dear Brothers and Sisters, we as a Church will not fall. We will be lead to the Rock that is higher than we are, which is Christ Jesus. We must be filled with things from on high. If we are, dear ones, we won't see or find fault with anyone else. Help us, Dear Lord, to search our own lives, before we speak something that we know will hurt another dear soul. Create in us loving dispositions and willingness in our hearts to forgive those who say things that are wrong. Let us show to the world that we are children of the Most High. If we become angry, we cannot say the things we should. We don't even think wisely. Help us to turn to Thee, Dear Lord, the One who can calm our souls.

When we come to the Dear Lord for help, our emotions are brought under control. Help us, dear ones, when we are tempted to say or do something not right that we will fall upon our knees. Trouble will cease and tears may fall but angry words won't be spoken. Let us throughout this year guard our thoughts and only do the things that are pleasing to our Heavenly Father to guide us safely through till He sees fit to call us home where we will not be judged by those who claim to love us, but by Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Sister E. M. Alltus

1985 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 1, 1985 Issue

MONDAY EVENING

Bro. Rudy Cover Opened, Matt. 11:28-30

Christ has promised us that He has a place for us. Where He is, we may be also. We will gain that great award if we live true and faithful to Him.

Bro. Ray Reed, I Tim. 11:1-6, Acts 1:8, Prov. 11:30.

Take time to read the Bible to your children. Teach them at home while they are young. Teach your child obedience while he is young, also to be submissive. Satan tries to sow rebellion in children while they are young. The mission of the Church is to win souls. The Church is the Ark of God that souls might enter in. Apostle Peter loved his Lord. He preached that great sermon on the Mount where many souls were saved. We are concerned about the growth of the Church. Do we ministers feed the flock in love and the Holy Spirit as we should? We are thankful Jesus gave us the opportunity to minister for Him. The Apostle Paul was a great Evangelist for the Lord. There are many souls in the world that need to give their life to Jesus. Are we doing our part to help win lost souls for Christ? The Devil is trying to get into the Churches. Also in the souls of man. He wants to get into the Churches and tear them down. Let us be soul winners for Jesus.

Bro. Hayes Reed, John 18:1-11, The Cup of Gethsemane.

Jesus had a fear as He went to that Garden. Christ prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane that the cup would pass from Him. The only begotten Son was in fear of death. God gave His only begotten Son that we might have life. Jesus died for our sins that we might have life Eternal. Jesus was that perfect man who lived here in this world. He had no sin. Jesus said to His Father in Heaven, "Not my will but Thy will be done."

Bro. Eugene Kauffman Closed.

We are interested about the growth of the Church. What are we doing to help win souls to Christ?

TUESDAY A.M.

Bro. Henry Walker, John 12:32, If I Be Lifted Up

The children of Israel always complained to Moses. They did not put their trust in God. Satan did all in his power to destroy Jesus' faith before He went to the cross. Jesus died on that Old Rugged Cross. The people that stood around about Him said "Let his blood be upon us and our children." He died on that cross for you and

me. Jesus can increase our faith and our hope. When Jesus hung on the cross He said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that we may live. We must be born again and give our life to Jesus if we want to get Salvation. We must let Jesus fill our lives so Satan will not enter in. We must follow and be a shining light to all the world. The people that were invited to the marriage supper had many flimsy excuses and did not want to go. The servant told them to go out to the highways and invite them in to the wedding supper. Are we helping to win souls to Christ? There are so many cults today. People are turning that way because they are misled by false teachers. Are we going out in the world today and trying to teach these cults the true words of Christ?

Bro. Alvin Chupp closed, leading us in prayer.

TUESDAY P.M.

Bro. Gordon Jamison Opened, Mark 10:35-46.

Were we eager to come to the service this afternoon. Let's think of the world how so many do not know about Christ our loving Saviour.

Bro. Fred Pifer, Luke 16:19.

Where is Lazarus my brother? Jesus taught concerning the home. Christian living is our whole mission work. The rich man failed to notice Lazarus at his gate. We are sitting at the rich mans table. Do we have Lazarus to share with? The rich man saw Lazarus afar off in a vision in Heaven while he was in Hell. How many times did the rich man walk past Lazarus at his gate and failed to help him? Lazarus needed food and his sores bound. How often have we talked to a neighbor about salvation? We all can find Lazaruses. It's a person who needs help. Pure religion is to visit the fatherless. We should visit the jails and tell the prisoners about Jesus, how their sins can be forgiven and accept Christ and get salvation. Do we help the needy (the Lazaruses) or are we neglectful? We might find Lazaruses in the old folks home. Always take Jesus with you in Spirit when you visit the Lazaruses.

Bro. Michael Wray Closed.

How do you feel as you sat here this afternoon? Did you see any Lazaruses? God sent us in the world to evangelize anyone who needs help spiritually or many other ways.

TUESDAY EVENING

Bro. William Carpenter Opened., II Chron. 30:1-12.

The Son of God came to seek them who are lost.

Bro. Jacob Ness, Isaiah 12:1-3, Wells of Salvation.

The Prophet Isaiah said he will draw from the Wells of Salvation. Apostle Paul wanted to win souls to Christ. He was a great missionary. Jesus met the woman at the well. Jesus began talking about the water. Jesus said, "Do you know who can draw living water?" She said, "How can this be? Art thou greater than our Father. You sound like a Prophet." Jesus and the Samaritan began to talk about the future Home in Heaven. She told Jesus she heard about the Messiah. Jesus is the Saviour of the world. The Wells of Salvation will increase our faith. It takes the Master to make that water pure. Are we drinking from the Wells of Salvation?

Bro. Dale Jamison Closed.

Christ said "Come drink of the living water freely."

Sister Alice Heisey

OBITUARIES

W. S. REED

Bro. William Sherman Reed, 94, of Dallas Center, Iowa died May 28, 1985 at his home.

He was born January 7, 1891 in Pocahontas County, West Virginia; the son of Creed and Cansada Darnell Reed. He was married to Mary Jane Jameson, January 17, 1917.

After their marriage, they moved to Swift Current, Sackatshwan, Canada, where he drilled water wells for a year. They moved to central Illinois, and farmed in that area for twenty-five years. They moved to Ankeny, Iowa in 1943 and continued to farm there and at Wauke, Iowa until he retired to Dallas Center in 1957.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, of the home; eight sons and three daughters, Kyle, Minburn, Iowa; Elbert, Des Moines, Iowa; Lloyd, Bethel, Pennsylvania; Millard, Manteca, California; Ray, Dallas Center, Iowa; William, Quinter, Kansas; John, Des Moines, Iowa; Fae Kasza, Malta Bend, Missouri; Edna Wertz, McClave, Colorado; Oty, Montrose, Colorado and Ruth Haldeman, Adel, Iowa; one brother, Charles, Lomax, Illinois, forty-three grandchildren and sixty-five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, three sisters, one grandchild, two great-grandchildren and one daughter-in-law.

W. S. Reed was baptized into the Church of the Brethren in October, 1922, later becoming a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church. He was called to the Deaconship on May 27, 1933, at Astoria, Illinois. He was installed as minister September 11, 1943 at the Astoria Church and he was ordained as Elder at Dallas Center, Iowa Church, September, 1946. He was quite active in the missionary work of the Church, serving on the Mission Board for many years. He served for

two years as Superintendent at the Torreon Navajo Mission near Cuba, New Mexico.

Services were conducted by Elder Joseph Flora assisted by Brethren Alvin Chupp and Fred Pifer at the Dunkard Brethren Church, June 1. Interment in the Brethren Cemetery.

KYLE REED

Bro. Kyle T. Reed, 67, of Minburn, Iowa, died July 4, 1985 at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa due to complications of surgery.

He was born February 9, 1918 in Carthage, Illinois, the son of William Sherman and Mary Jane Reed. He was married to Mary Naomi Light on May 26, 1946.

After their marriage they spent three years doing relief work in China. They moved to Minburn, Iowa in 1949 where he farmed until 1965. He then established his own business Farm-El Services, to which he dedicated his untiring services. After retiring in 1983 he began studying college mathematics so he could help the children in our school.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; one son, Howard of Tulsa, Oklahoma; five daughters, Mary Jane Swihart, of Quinter, Kansas; Doris Hemphill of McClave, Colorado; Margaret Hillers of Noble, Oklahoma; Myrna Palmer of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Dorothy Hartley of Springfield, Missouri; six grandchildren; his mother, Mary of Dallas Center, Iowa; seven brothers, Elbert of Des Moines, Iowa; Lloyd of Bethel, Pennsylvania; Millard of Manteca, California; Ray of Dallas Center, Iowa; William of Quinter, Kansas; John of Des Moines, Iowa, and Oty of Montrose, Colorado; three sisters, Fae Kasza of Malta Bend, Missouri; Edna Wertz of McClave, Colorado, and Ruth Haldeman of Adel, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his father, one son, and one sister-in-law.

Kyle was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church in Astoria, Illinois as a teenager and was called to the Deaconship in 1953. He was quite active in the missionary work of the church. He served on the Board of Directors of the Torreon Navajo Mission in Cuba, New Mexico since its founding in 1956. He had great concern for both the spiritual and physical needs of the Navajo people, and made numerous trips to Torreon during his twenty-nine years of service.

Possibly his greatest concern was for the young people of the church. He was a Sunday School teacher for many years, and was instrumental in starting the Dallas Center Christian School in 1979.

Funeral services were held July 5, 1985 at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church. Bro. Fred Pifer was assisted by Bro. David Skiles and Bro. Harley Flory. Interment was in the Brethren Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation will have a Revival Meeting, September 8 through September 15. Elder Robert Carpenter of Peru, Indiana will be our evangelist.

There will be a Lovefeast Service on Saturday, September 14, with meeting all day on Sunday. Come enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to a two week Revival Meeting starting Sunday, September 15 through Sunday, September 29. Bro. Laverne Keeney will be our evangelist. Saturday, September 28, Lovefeast services will begin at 11:00 A.M. with the Lovefeast proper at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome to come and worship with us. Pray for these meetings that we might truly have a revival.

Sister Carolyn Carpenter, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to express my "thanks" to everyone who sent me cards and letters and remembered me in your prayers during my affliction and major surgery. I am home now, but it is going slow.

Sorry we had to miss General Conference after twenty-one years of attendance. The Lord knows best and I want to still trust in Him always and thank Him for all my many blessings.

Here's my sincere "Thanks" and may God richly bless you all in my prayer.

In Christian Love
Sister Martha Shaffer



Let the chain of second causes be ever so long, the first link is always in God's hand. — Lavington.



Swinish gluttony ne'er looks to heaven amid his gorgeous feast, but with besotted, base ingratitude, crams and blasphemes his feeder. — Milton.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1985

September 1 - David and the Ark of God - II Sam. 6:1-23.

1. How was the Ark to be moved and who was to move it?

September 8 - The House of God - II Sam. 7:1-29.

1. Why could not David build a house of God? I Kings 22:8.

September 15 - David's Victories and Mercy for Saul's Son - II Sam. 8:1-18, II Sam. 9:1-13.

1. Why was David victorious over his enemies? Verse 14.

September 22 - Ammonites Punished; Syrians Defeated - II Sam. 10:1-19.

1. How did the children of Ammon treat the servants of David?

September 29 - David's Sin, Basheba & Uriah - II Sam. 11:1-27.

1. What great sin did David commit and how did he try to cover up his sin?

YOUNG PEOPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1985

September 1 - High Standards - Gen. 17:1; Matt. 5:48; Heb. 6:1; Heb. 12:14; II Cor. 7:5.

1. How may we go about maintaining a high standard? Psalms 119.9.

September 8 - The Golden Rule - Matt. 5:46; Matt. 6:12; Luke 6:30-35.

The Good Samaritan is a good example of how we are to treat our fellowmen.

September 15 - Pleasure Seeking - Prov. 21:17; Luke 8:14; Luke 12:19; II Pet. 2:13-22.

1. What will be the result of seeking worldly pleasure? Rom. 8:13.

September 22 - The Secret Things - II Kings 17:9; Psalms 19:12; Eph. 5:11.

1. Is everything done in secret wrong? Matt. 6:6.

September 29 - Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31.

1. What are the perils of riches? Deut. 8:13-14.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

SEPTEMBER 1, 1985

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O TURN YE, O TURN YE

O turn ye, O turn ye, for why will ye die,
When God in great mercy is coming so nigh?
Now Jesus invites you, the Spirit says, Come,
And angels are waiting to welcome you home.

How vain the delusion, the while you delay,
Your hearts may grow better by staying away;
Come wretched, come starving, come just as you be,
While streams of salvation are flowing so free.

And now Christ is ready your souls to receive,
O how can you question if you will believe?
If sin is your burden why will you not come?
'Tis you he bids welcome; he bids you come home.

Come, give us your hand, and the Savior your heart,
And trusting in heaven, we never shall part;
O, how can we leave you? why will you not come?
We'll journey together and soon be at home.

- J. Hopkins

MAKE NO MENTION OF IT

During the latter days of Joshua's leadership, he spoke to Israel about their service for God. This was similar to the words of Moses before his death. Both of these closing statements showed what God had done for them in the past, their present pleasant condition and also gave advice for their future spiritual good. There were the always necessary warnings about being true to God and avoiding the pitfalls of mixing with the various heathen tribes around them.

There were so many ways that Satan tempted them to leave God and worship him. Through subtle contacts that often led to inter-marriage and finally to idol worship, they were led downward. Joshua warned them to not even mention the names of the gods of the heathen. If they did not speak of their gods they were less likely to be enticed to worship them. If they were familiar with these gods then they could be slowly enticed to worship and serve them. It takes only a little familiarity to break down past reserve and to be led away from a former resolve.

Paul's advice was similar to Joshua's. He told the Ephesians that it was a shame to even speak of the things done by unbelievers in secret. The Christian is to be clean escaped from the evils he did in the past. Not only is he to leave behind the evils of his past but he dares not be curious about the evils of the past. The Christian's curiosity can often prove his downfall.

Rather than developing a curiosity about the Bible and spiritual things the Christian becomes curious about the evils of the world. Usually this curiosity develops with a good intention of knowing more about the devil's ways, so the Christian will be better prepared to overcome the enemy. Unfortunately, he may soon be engrossed by his studies and perhaps even become convinced thereby.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

SEPTEMBER 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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The Christian's curiosity may cause him to read and follow worldly periodicals. The magazines and papers devoted to many worldly organizations and causes come into the Christian's home. Often these would desire a commitment of finances and devotion to causes that may be well intentioned but not God-centered. The majority of the magazines that are available at the newsstand or by subscription are devoted to a worldly lifestyle. They promote dress, activities and thoughts that are sensual, self-centered and devilish.

By allowing our curiosities free course in pursuing this type of reading material will influence our lives. The effect may be subtle but it will be there. Just as the food we feed our physical bodies affects our bodies, so the material, written, pictorial or oral that we feed our souls and minds will affect our Spiritual lives.

How often do we under the cover of "learning more about the Satan's devilish plans" actually come to enjoy the carnal knowledge that we gain? It is easy to be tricked by Satan into doing evil although we thought we were only looking into his deceptive devices. The investigation into his ways may so soon turn into enjoyment of his ways. Every Christian who falls into doing Satan's deeds, even while well intentioned, will bring that much more shame upon the whole Church as there will be those around who will charge hypocrisy. We have a hard enough time living a Christian life and maintaining a Christian testimony, without being found in Satan's activities, although we are there but to investigate.

The Christian has to be careful lest he further the enemy's work more than the Lord's. He has to realize that to broadcast the devil's work may be to advance it further than to simply warn against it. A vicious attack on even the most disgusting and sinful activities may cause some to become sympathetic towards them. So what began as a warning and denunciation may in the end have the opposite effect. We should never be in the position where our good is evil spoken of. We must try to make our good, good. A continual denunciation of a certain group, Church or nationality may turn wearisome and self-defeating. If the people's ears are closed against the messenger and his message, then no matter how true the message may be, it will have no effect.

Joshua and Paul gave advice to those of their day that is good for us today. It is good for us to avoid the sins of the wicked even to the extent of not even naming them or talking of them. Satan does not need the publicity and the Christian does not need to torture his soul with such knowledge.

GO YE

Our watchword, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel," is a command! The Church of Jesus Christ is on the receiving end.

Go!

You are the one Jesus was speaking to! Not to your brother, not to your preacher, not to your elder, not even to your missionary, but to you! Go now! There are souls all around you on the way to an everlasting hell!

Into All The World!

Every avenue of life presents you with the unsaved; your family, your neighbors, your associates at work, the people you meet on the street, and those in the places of business. Satan says, "later" or "walk quietly" or "sit."

Wait?

The only thing the disciples were to wait on was the coming of the Holy Spirit. If you know Jesus as your Saviour then you have enough of the Holy Spirit to GO!

Walk Quietly?

Satan says, "Just live your Christian life and keep quiet, just wear your plain clothes and say nothing! They'll come and ask questions if they really want to know!" He is the father of lies!!

But notice how the great powerhouse missionary, Paul, did it.

"Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly (completely) given to idolatry." Acts 17:16

His spirit was stirred in him. Is your spirit stirred in you when you see the sin of the people around you? If that doesn't stir your spirit, then it is time to seek God extensively in prayer!

Your compassion for the lost is a demonstration of your love for others.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

I John 4:8

Our example of what love really is, is found in God through the gift of His Son, Jesus.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

So you have an obligation to follow the example of Christ and reach out to the lost!

Walk Quietly?

And here we go back to our watch word.

Preach

"Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him." Acts 17:17

Paul was going out! Paul was disputing, preaching, teaching! He was on the offensive against Satan on his ground, (the marketplace), to his people (the Epicureans and Stoicks, verse 18). The move of God throughout the entire Bible has been toward man, calling, pleading, beseeching! Never has it been man seeking God!

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44.

Jesus left the physical going and preaching to you and He will do the spiritually drawing. That is why He said "Go Preach" to you!

Sit?

The Word of God did not say 'sit'. You invite people to church or maybe just open the church doors and 'sit' and say, "If they want to hear, they will come." Would you go to a tennis match? or to a golf tournament? or to a nightclub floor show? or to a rock music concert? No! It just isn't your interest. Your interest is in God, where your treasure is! That is just how interesting church is to the poor lost sinner. His heart is where his treasure is! It is up to you to take Jesus to the sinner and stir his interest and hunger for the good things of God! How can you, if you are not enjoying your Christian life?

Conclusion

If God's people, and that's you individually, lose the vision to reach the lost, we have missed, or lost our calling (purpose).

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Hebrews 3:1.

That High Priest said,

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature!" Mark 16:15.

If you cannot cross the ocean,
And the heathen lands explore,
You can find the heathen nearer,
You can help them at your door;
If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.

Brother Paul H. Mellott
Route 5 Box 172D
Oakland, Maryland 21550

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Modern Gospel Music"

Part 2

We are warned in II Peter 3:17 that: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." The wicked of the contemporary religious scene are leading the new music trends. They are carnally-minded and have their arms around the world and are telling us this is the way we should be.

Are we conforming to their way? Psalm 24:3 says, "O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together." This **MUST** be our goal in our music and in all of our Christian experience.

We are further instructed in Romans 12:2 not to be conformed to this world. Is copying worldly music styles conforming to the world? Do we think that music is excluded.?

Most of the new gospel sounds are youth oriented. Young people especially identify with it. As a result of this, this generation that has been spoon fed on the sounds of rock music can have their cake and eat it too! There is no doubt in my mind that popular music has made an adverse impact on the conservative church today.

There are many imitations of Broadway musicals in gospel music. Even the seemingly innocent record of "the Music Machine" combines jazz, folk rock, rock and blues to get its message across. Be very careful.... even in the selection of children's records.

In I John 2:15 we are taught not to love the world nor the things that are in it. In addition, Paul teaches us in II Cor. 6:17 to come out of the world and be separate... to not touch unclean things. This is the only way He can receive us.

The Christian life is NOT "groovy." It is beautiful, peaceful, challenging... but not groovy! Groovy music should have no place in your life... it is warped by Satan. One former disc jockey says you can "never reach the young people with their 'church of the Frigidaire' approach"... so, the solution, of course, is rock, jazz, blues, and country.

Even Billboard... a secular magazine... gives awards for the top gospel songs each year. Jesus says, "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you..." (Luke 6:26) The philosophy that you can't reach people with traditional church music and that you must use special programming with rock to do it is another one of Satan's lies. Why do we have to bring the world into the church to gain converts? The two are diametrically opposed.

Popular gospel throbs, jumps, swings, and influences just like the world's music does. The people seem to bubble over with zeal and enthusiasm as they present it but it would appear they are spiritually diseased or could they be dead? Their energy is misplaced and misused.

Contemporary over traditional... that is the in-vogue thing. Just like much junk food has replaced good food today... so junk music has replaced much of the nutritious traditional gospel sounds. The world has a watered down theology and a watered down music. Modern gospel music says... Christianity isn't so bad after all... it is not much different from your previous life style... just grab hold of Jesus and join us!

Satan has been trying to get into the church for years and now he has found a wide open door through popular gospel music. It has been coming for a long time... a gradual move from hymns to the new sounds. Today, the barriers are down. You can listen to the "Electric Church" or "Messiah A La Moog," or various other avante garde groups.

Just a few years ago gospel singers would not have been caught on a secular, permissive television show. Now they clamor to get on. Jesus said, "If any man will follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross..." Has Satan blinded us so badly that we don't know right from wrong anymore? Or, do we just prefer to do our own thing and follow after our own fleshly desires and interests?

When you follow after modern sounds, you condone the world. In addition, you become sensual. It becomes essentially spiritual fornication. The corruption of this music is a reflection of the instability even of Bible-believing churches. It is evil.

Music is a powerful force. It can help us overcome our fears, it abates heaviness, anxiety, depression, and so forth. David was skilled on the harp and played for king Saul. The evil spirit that troubled him departed and he was refreshed in his spirit as a result of right music.

I challenge you to cry out against gospel rock music. Don't let Satan and the secular world control you. It has cost Christendom untold heartaches and needless problems. You should be repulsed when you hear God's word accompanied by the racy sounds of rock. No matter how doctrinally sound the words are, rock, by its nature, can never be used to communicate spiritual truth.

The Bible condemns the combining of the holy with the unholy. II Cor. 6:14 warns us against unequal yoking with unbelievers. This is what you do when you combine the sensual sound of rock with the scripture.

Rock is evil. Modern gospel rock is evil. Satan is hiding in it. Listeners to it are star struck and not Christ oriented.

God intends for us to enjoy music. He has His stamp of approval on good music which has qualities of honesty, purity and truth. Remember, there is no difference in preaching false doctrine and singing false doctrine!

God asks to be different... to be better than the base world. The social gospel can't apply to our lives in any way. Satan says it can... but then he is the great deceiver. He knows most Christians will not be taken in by obvious deviations from the truth. So, he sneaks in in a pair of sneakers and blue jeans, singing new sounds.

Finally, remember that music is not really for outreach... but for the enjoyment of the Body of Christ. A blind person can't appreciate a beautiful sunset, and an unbeliever can't comprehend music about God.

Sing out for Jesus. Clean Satan's music out of your music libraries. Live for Him in the fullest.

Brother Leonard Wertz

THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS

Wherever we go in life, whatever problems we have, there is one thing we all desire and need. That need is to be loved unconditionally. To be loved regardless of what we have done, or of how we've messed up our lives is truly the cry of our hearts. No one needs love so much as the person who deserves it the least. To withhold our love until the person "deserves" it, as we see it, can cause overwhelming sorrow.

Our hearts cry out for love, understanding, kindness, encouragement, and hope when all looks hopeless. We may cry out to God because of a personal need, family concerns, or the needs of our friends. We may cry out for mercy or for a blessing, but whatever the cry, it is a plea for help. We want our friends to love us also, to be understanding and kind even when we get ourselves into a mess. To have those we love and need withdraw from us only increases the pain.

"My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." Psalms 84:2. David cried out to God with his whole being. He wanted help and he needed it. David was disobedient at various times, but God loved him anyhow, and helped him get straightened out. If God had forsaken David in his hour of need, David would have ended up in despair and still wrong. God didn't stop loving David, even though he had sinned and correction was necessary.

God loves us and accepts us as we are, when we cry out to Him. Then He proceeds to help us. He doesn't condone our sins, but

instead draws us back to Him in love. When people around us cry out for love and understanding, we need to respond to them as God does, with love, compassion, and a genuine caring spirit. People in trouble need our concern, not our criticism. Knowing we accept them, problems and all, may mean the difference between despair and hope.

God wants us to be obedient to Him, and when we fail, it causes us much grief. But we can still know He loves us, that He'll help even though our disobedience hurts Him and those around us. Disobedience brings suffering, and we may need to cry out for help to bear the sorrow. Again, God will help us. Why? Because He loves us and forgives us. God has never been, and is not now, "soft" on sin, but He has a tender spot in His heart for each of us.

God knows we are human, that we need Him, and that we'll be crying out to Him because of our need. The children of Israel — His chosen and much-loved people — got into trouble time and time again. God didn't ignore their unfaithfulness, but time and time again, He helped them when they cried out to Him. God had compassion on them and was merciful even though they surely didn't deserve it. We need to be merciful to each other even though we don't deserve it.

Jesus said we are to forgive seventy times seven, see Matt. 18:21-22. Perhaps it seems like He's asking a lot of us, but we certainly ask a lot of Jesus when we ask Him to forgive us. A person in the Corinthian Church had gotten into trouble, and Paul said the punishment was sufficient, and now it was time to forgive and comfort (see II Cor. 2:6-8). Why? This man needed their love and support so he wouldn't be overwhelmed by sorrow.

If you are hesitant to respond with compassion when someone cries out to you for help, try putting yourself in that situation. What if you needed help, and you were rejected? If you don't know how to respond, at least you can pray and intercede, as Samuel did for Israel (I Sam. 7:9). Also, Elijah interceded for the widow whose son had died (I Kings 17:20-22). He understood her need, and sought God's help, but whether we understand or not, we can still pray.

There is the "cry of the poor" (Prov. 21:13), the "cry of the afflicted" (Job 34:28), the "cry of the humble" (Psa. 9:12). There is also the cry of one who is overwhelmed (Psa. 61:2). Whatever the reason for the cry of our hearts, we can be sure God cares. He is able to help us — "With God, all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26) and He wants to help us — "No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly." (Psa. 84:11) Let us look to Him in faith for our needs, and the needs of others. "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." (Psa. 40:1).

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1925

I GO A FISHING

D. D. Thomas

It was a sad thing that the disciples went fishing that day. There had been enough to keep them busy all the time had they turned their attention to it. The change of affairs had so disconcerted them that they were constrained to go to the old ways that they learned before they had learned of Jesus. They had been stirred up with the prospects of great things. Jesus had not told them the things that were in their minds. In fact many of the things he had said, taught them differently from that. But the minds of the people of this world are not the mind of Christ, and their imaginations led them away from him. So the disciples wandered away from him in that dark hour. It does not seem to me that this should have been a dark hour. But these disciples did not understand. They had expected him to come as a temporal king and in that they were disappointed. Like many moderners they were trying to adapt the things of his kingdom to the surroundings of the present world and did not realize that the kingdom of Christ is not of this world. The risen Christ coming forth should have been the gladdest thing that ever happened to them. While their eyes beheld of his glory they did not see.

The resurrection experience surely would have given them enough to think about so that they would have much to investigate and learn of the wonderful things that were happening. To some extent these things attracted their attention. The disciples could run to the grave when they learned that Jesus was not there. Thomas could stand the test when the risen Lord gave it and go away believing. The weeping Mary when she saw him could cry, "My dearest Lord." But there seemed some necessity for their action. The apprehension and execution of Jesus had caused their organization to cease. Judas had gone with all the money and at that time was no more. They must live and there seemed no other way for it. And they would reason that they should starve if some provision was not made. These were working men and a vocation meant much to them. It was woven into their character. It was the most natural thing for them to do. Many a man this day is gone after a vocation, a training from youth, though called of Christ. The vocation should not take the place of the calling but the calling should sanctify the vocation.

When God said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy might", he certainly meant just what he said. It doesn't come just as an

ordinary command, though that would be strong enough that we should obey, but it comes to us as a fundamental principle. It is the very constitutional feature of the kingdom itself. An avocation that lessens or modifies it is not of God.

The next feature is their success. They began in the evening and they toiled all night and they caught nothing. It was a persistent effort, though fruitless. They did not get a vision of what the Master had said. They could not understand why he had to be crucified, although he had told them that he should be killed. He had taught them of the resurrection and yet they were as much surprised as any when they learned of it. It was hard for some of them to believe and it had to be demonstrated before they did. But in the face of all this evidence they did go a fishing, "and that night they caught nothing."

Here is a fine example of God's providence. They were going forth in their own strength. There did not seem to be any "If the Lord wills" in it, but simply, "I go a fishing", and "we also go with thee." "And that night they caught nothing." In the morning they saw Jesus standing on the shore. The disciples "knew not that it was Jesus."

Some of the ancients have said that Love is blind. But that never, never was said by the Great Master. God is love, and God sees. John is called the beloved disciple, perhaps because he leaned on the Master's breast at the supper, and John saw first. I think we can rely upon it that love has more power to help us to see than anything else. It helped John to see his blessed Lord in that morning dawn and it will also help us to see him.

Well, it was a long time no doubt to them when they toiled all night and caught nothing. It makes one think that the greatest lessons and brightest lights come to those who are willing to toil through the dark hours. It might be reasoned that since they had not practiced for some time therefore they were not successful. But, I think that God was in it. In his love he tries us but does not discard us. It was well for them to see that the Master's bidding was better than their old avocation. In their own strength they could do nothing, but at the Master's command, note what a change.

This fishing trip looks to me as though it was the darkest hour that had come to them since his death. The only hopeful feature of it was that they were willing to try so hard. Though in the wrong they were a noble set of men. I do not know whether they thought it was their only way to have a living or not. But they felt that it was needful for them to make an effort while they were going to the last extremity. And at least to some extent they must have forgotten the power of him that had schooled them for these years. They must have lost some faith. When faith goes darkness comes. So it was to them a dark hour.

God looks down upon us and pities us and loves us, but he does not always come to us at once. Little trials help us to know him. It is the many favors that spoil the child. We are all of us God's children whether we are good children or bad children. He loves us and keeps us through our sorest trials, by which we may be enabled to see him in the right light. If we labor faithfully when the dawn comes we may be enabled to see him by the light on the shore.

It is wonderful that Jesus came at all to them. No one can rightfully say that he had not done enough for them. He died for them, but I do not think that they saw that at all at that time. Hereafter they should know. He had shown a wonderful spirit in the hour of his agony for them. His death was the noblest that one could imagine. In the trial of it he never lost his purpose. Through it all he showed a power that a fully human being could not have shown. And all nature supplemented it.

One would think that after he had done all this the disciples could not expect him to do more. But we find him after it all seeking them on the seashore. Said he, "I pray for them that hour hast given me." He gave proof of it in seeking them that the prayer was deeply sincere. That he was willing to do much that they might work for him. That they might be fishers of men.

But that morn after the night of toil came they all saw something that greatly attracted their attention. God always brings things to us strongly enough so that we may be able to see. The one great bar to seeing God's manifestations is the will. The will to see and the will to hear. Many souls today are turning away to the world rather than to see and hear the good things that God has for them. They are turning to "fables" and "the doctrines and commandments" of men.

The blessing came to those disciples that morning before they knew their Lord. The wonderful draught of fishes and the wonderful preservation of the net that it brake not under the heavy strain all contrasted so happily with their nights experience that it must have struck them in an unusual way. The seeming stranger giving advice that would have been judged no good and yet by its use bringing results that they had toiled for so long. It was not so much a wonder that John saw as it was a wonder that the others did not.



As to be perfectly just is an attribute of the divine nature, to be so to the utmost of our abilities is the glory of man. — Addison.



Real glory springs from the silent conquest of ourselves. Without that, the conqueror is nought but the foist slave. — Thompson.

FOOD

In Luke 11:11 we read, "If a son shall ask break of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?" I am sure each of us would give our children the best we have.

We, as parents, are very concerned about the ones we bring into this world. Let us feed them food that will nourish them and let us guide them in the way of right and bring them up in the way of the Lord. Let us correct them when they do things that are not right. Sometimes we must punish them, but it is for their good. The Bible says spare not the rod and ruin the child. Let us get them back on the straight and narrow way.

We know bread and food is needed but they also need manna from Heaven, the spiritual food. Let us not lay up money for our children, but let us set an example before them so they will become a worker in Christ's vineyard. When we put money away for the future we are only giving them things for this life, but what we give to them spiritually is what counts in this life and the life hereafter.

Christ commanded us to love the Lord with all our hearts. Teach our dear ones to love Christ and also love everybody.

There are so many children on our streets today who do not know what love is. Many have never been inside of a Church. Many are taught to worship idols. Oh, how far has this world wandered away from God and His precious Word. Oh, how they need food from heaven to nourish them and give them strength for the trials of every passing day. Will there be those, tomorrow who will be able to find food and not a stone?

In our homes, the Spiritual leader should be the father. Oh, fathers don't neglect your responsibility. You cannot cast it off. The Lord requires it of you to instruct them.

Do our children ever ask us about our Church and why we practice a certain thing? Are we ready to tell them or do we turn them away? I think every parent should tell their children why they go to Church and why they do the things they do in the Church.

Prepare these dear ones so they will be ready, when called, to serve Jesus. Let us give them pure food so they will grow in the faith. A spiritual father in the Church is one whose duty is to teach and instruct those dear ones of whom some are babes in Christ. Do not neglect the duty the Lord has laid upon you. Feed them with the Word of God, which is pure food for their souls.

Sometimes children want to run their parents. The good Book does not teach that. You are told to honor your parents — you are to obey your parents. Children are we doing that today? Let us each so live that it will be well for us when life here has come to an end.

Sister E. M. Alltus

OBITUARY

MABEL PIKE

Sister Mabel Pike, daughter of Samuel and Levina (Stutzman) Wyse, was born June 6, 1895 near Wauseon, Ohio and passed away at her home June 29, 1985 at the age of 90 years and 23 days.

She became a Christian early in life and for nearly 60 years has been a faithful member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church.

She was united in marriage to L. Perley Pike, November 12, 1915. To this union was born seven children. He preceded her in death February 17, 1944.

She is survived by three sons, Lowell and Wayne, both of West Unity, Ohio and Delmer of Wauseon, Ohio; four daughters, Mrs. John (Faye) Carpenter of West Unity, Ohio, Mrs. William (Larena) Carpenter of Morenci, Michigan; Mrs. Donna Fike of Adrian, Mich., and Mrs. Charles (Ruth) Vaughn of Miami, Florida; one step-daughter, Mrs. Grayden (Bernice) Pebbeth of Eustis, Florida; three brothers, Earl and Carl Wyse, both of Wauseon and Alvin Wyse of Michigan; two sisters, Mrs. Effie Eberly and Mrs. Mary Zenz, both of Delta, Ohio; twenty-five grandchildren, thirty-nine great grandchildren and twenty-seven step grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by one step-daughter, Flora Pfund; one grandchild, Jolene Carpenter; three brothers, Freeman, Reo and Ralph; and one sister, Laura Sampson.

The family express their thanks for all the kindness shown to them.

Another loved one passes on
To happiness on high,
And we who have our work to do
Can only pause and sigh.
Another Mother just gone Home
With children left on earth
To strive and struggle on, and show
Their own most valiant worth;
But all together all shall meet
By great divine command
Where struggles of the earth are o'er
In Heaven's happyland.

Services were held at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church on Wednesday, July 3, 1985 with Elder H. Edward Johnson and Elder Charles Leatherman officiating. Final resting place was in the Tedrow Cemetery with Elder Harley Rush conducting the grave side services.

NEWS ITEMS

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

The Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to have a Revival, Wednesday, September 18 through Sunday morning, September 22. The Lovefeast will be September 21. Bro. Paul Reed and Bro. Virgil Leatherman will be co-evangelists.

Bro. Eugene Kauffman

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Church plans a Revival beginning September 29 through October 13. Brother Jack Snyder of Stevens, Pennsylvania will be our Evangelist.

Lovefeast services will be October 12 with the Lovefeast service at 7:30 p.m. There will be services on Sunday.

We invite all to these meetings.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation has scheduled a Revival effort commencing September 29. The Lord willing, Brother Berton Smith from Topeka, Indiana will be the Evangelist. These meetings terminate with our Lovefeast on October 6. We invite you to be present and enjoy these services with us. Pray for God's blessings and that His will be done in each of our lives.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.



Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. — Goldsmith.



God governs the world, and we have only to do our duty wisely, and leave the issue to him. — John Jay.



The Mohammedans have ninety-nine names for God, but among them all they have not "our Father."

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

SEPTEMBER 15, 1985

NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SLEEPING SOUL

My drowsy pow'rs, why sleep ye so?
Awake, my sluggish soul!
Nothing has half thy work to do,
Yet nothing's half so dull.

The little ants, for one poor grain,
Labor, and tug, and strive;
Yet we who have a crown to gain,
How negligent we live!

We, for whom God's own Son came down
And labored for our good;
How careless to secure that crown
He purchased with his blood!

Lord, shall we lie so sluggish still,
And never act our parts?
Come, holy Dove, our spirits fill,
And warm our frozen hearts.

Then shall our active spirits move,
Upward our souls shall rise:
With hands of faith and wings of love
We'll fly and take the prize.

- Issaac Watts

THE PROPHET MUST PROPHECY

God has had many prophets who were appointed and anointed to speak what He wanted said. We associate prophets with the Old Testament because there were many statements made there concerning the future. But prophecy is not merely foretelling, it is simply forthtelling. A prophet does not deal necessarily with future events, but with present sins and their consequences.

A prophet is a preacher. He is to be the link between God and the world. He is to convey faithfully the message God wants broadcast, which may or may not involve the future. Often the prophets of old were aided by miracles. These miracles may no longer be as useful as then. They labored under a severe disadvantage, unknown to us. They lived before the incarnation of Jesus Christ. They did not have the complete Word of God, so the miracles was an aid to their preaching. Today, God's Word is complete and available, so the magical is not needed.

There were and are true and false prophets. The true are those who will carry forth God's message without changing it to suit themselves or others. The false change it so they will be popular with those who hear it. They fear if they deliver the message exactly as God wants it, they will be disliked or even persecuted by those who hear. The false prophets in Old Testament times would tell the people that dire consequences of sin would not come upon them if they did not repent. The false prophets of today who alter God's Word to suit their hearers can gather a crowd easier if the message isn't too hard.

Though the easy message that speaks only of God's love will be the easiest to deliver and remain popular, it will be a disservice to those who hear it. If men are not warned about the effects and

THE BIBLE MONITOR
SEPTEMBER 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4-4017-11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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penalties of sin, they will continue in sin. If men are not warned they may find, in time, that they will be beyond the striving of God's Spirit and they will have to spend an awful eternity in Satan's Hell.

There have been many prophets in both Old Testament times and more recent times who have fulfilled the charge given them by God. They have not been turned aside from delivering the message of God either through fear nor favor of man. In recent times it might be surmised that more prophets have been sidetracked from their duty by men's favor than by fear of what men might do. Where persecution fails, praise, kindness, gifts and half-hearted obedience have been effective in turning aside the message of the prophet.

Today there remains a few who are true to their charge. Amos was amongst the prophets of old who were true. Amos gives a little glimpse of himself along with his message in Amos 7. Amos had been a herdsman and sycamore fruit gatherer. He had had no training to be a prophet nor was he related to a prophet. Yet, God made this simple, uneducated man, who desired to serve God, a prophet. Because he was uneducated he was open to God's message and his duty. He did not have to unlearn what he had been taught of man's wisdom. Education is not a bad thing if it is accomplished and used in a right way. The original purpose behind education was to provide people with an ability to read and understand the Bible and to make a simple living. An education that works at cross-purposes with those purposes is to be avoided. Amos could be taken from the herdsman's hut to being God's spokesman. God would have more true spokesmen today if they didn't insist on ruining themselves as channels of God's Word through unnecessary education. An educated prophet generally demands a salary. The hiring can become a hindrance rather than a help in carrying out the Word of God.

A part of the message God gave to Amos was that He could deal with their sins through severe physical consequences such as grasshoppers or fire but instead He was very quietly using the plumb-line to measure them for judgment. The prophets were continually warning the people of their need of repentance but usually with seemingly little result. God might have scared them into decision through physical means but instead He now was simply showing Amos how straight and strict His judgment would be. The plumb-line speaks of that which is very straight allowing for no variance.

The herdsman Amos came to the attention of the religious and political leaders of the land. They wanted him to stop preaching at them. It would have suited them if he would have taken his message to another people. They wanted to be left alone. Here the mixture of religion and politics again shows its corruptible ways.

The place of worship at Bethel was declared to be the king's and obviously not the Lord's. The Church has no business trying to run the government and the government must not interfere with the worship of God. When the two are mixed there will be corruption.

Amos gives us a glimpse of the prophet's life and his message. Might there be those today, who will as firmly deliver the Lord's message to dying men.

WHOM SHOULD I DATE?

Would you like to have the happiest marriage possible on earth? The first step toward this goal is to become the right partner. This was reviewed in a previous article. The second step is to be sure to select the right person. Before getting into some specifics, let us review some important basic principles about dating and marriage.

Marriage is permanent, until the death of one of the partners. The marriage is to last "as long as we both shall live." According to God's Word, there is to be no remarriage while the first partner is still living. Marriage is a permanent, binding covenant. You are making a life-time commitment. So, go for the best!

What is the purpose of dating? Some young people date because they want to be accepted socially. They want to do the "in thing." Others date to be close to someone. They enjoy the hugs and the love (physical only). But the real purpose for dating in our culture is to find a marriage partner. You should only date someone you think might make a good marriage partner. Therefore it is imperative that you select or accept dates with great care.

What are some things to look for in selecting or accepting a possible date?

A. Date only a growing Christian. Do not even consider dating or marrying a non-Christian (II Corinthians 6:14). Many heart-breaks could have been prevented if people would have only heeded this directive in their lives. There is no scriptural basis for "missionary dating." Remember non-Christians do not necessarily have moral standards and once a guy gets started, the fires of passion burn hot! Also be aware that just because a person is a church member does not guarantee that he or she is a growing Christian.

B. Does your date know how to control anger? Once while on a date we were going to a particular event. When we arrived, there were no other cars there, no people around, and nothing was going on! I am ashamed today of how I reacted. I became angry at everybody involved! Several years later, on another date, the

same basic thing happened and I was able (through the freedom from anger God had given) to take it calmly and we went somewhere else for the evening. What are your date's reactions when things don't work out as planned? Another good way to check this area is to simply observe a person's driving habits. How does he or she react when a car pulls out right in front of him, or someone else is driving very slowly ahead?

Find out how your date reacts in different situations. Play family games, and watch reactions. Croquet somehow tends to bring the worst out of a guy when he misses several times. If he hits his mallet on the ground, better let him grow up some more! What is your date's reaction when you win a game of checkers or ping pong? What is your reaction when you lose?

C. Check to see whether your date has truly put God first in his or her life. Some of the ways you can detect whether or not a person has done this are:

- Does he or she accept themselves the way God made them?
- Is the person under God-given authority? Is he or she courteous and helpful to their parents, or resentful and rebellious?
- Does your potential date have moral freedom?
- Is he or she rooted and grounded in the Word of God? Does he or she have stability of character, or does he or she merely bump around from one experience to the next?
- Does he or she have financial freedom?

Girls, watch the guy's manners! Is he sensitive about your feelings, and about taking care of you, or does he think only of himself? Carefully watch the way the boy treats his mother and the way a girl treats her father. That's the way he or she will treat their mate several years from now. Do you wish to be treated that way?

There are some basic dangers to avoid in selecting or accepting a date. Guys need to be aware of the desire to date a girl just because of outward beauty or sexual attraction. Girls have a tendency to say "yes" to a guy, who they know is less than the best for them because of the fear of being left. Emotions tend to get tied up in some less than ideal guy, who pays attention to you, much quicker than you realize!

Most important is to seek God in prayer. Yield to God your right to marry. Realize that He knows what is best for you. Let God guide you in this important decision.

Brother Robert Lehigh

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Music in Flames"

The picture will be indelibly imprinted in my mind and in the minds of other young Christians who set around a camp fire in the Colorado mountains and watched nearly a thousand dollars worth of rock music tapes burn in the camp fire.... a tribute to recommitted lives... lives moving away from the greatest evangelistic tool that Satan has across the world today... ROCK MUSIC. Tears of joy brimmed from the eyes of those who watched and songs of praise lifted from that blessed scene.

It wasn't easy to give in to the Lord's will... and there were also tears shed as repentance and brokenness had to be accepted in returning to the Lord as their "first love." But, it was necessary.

In the third lesson on music... I would share with you the necessity of standing firm on the Rock, Jesus Christ and His music. For far too long, members of the conservative church have only hidden their heads in the sand and hoped this perversion of something beautiful would go away. Parents didn't see the importance of strong teachings against modern music... the ministry did not see the compelling need to warn strongly against its evil force in members' lives.

God's word teaches us that Satan will bring strong delusions upon man in the end times and that man will no longer accept sound doctrine. These warnings apply profoundly in the field of music. "Rock prophets" communicate their messages with such a great impact that people allow them to become their heroes and follow their blind gospel. This is a form of idolatry that will bring down the judgment of God on the Church and all of mankind.

What is the root of this evil? MONEY! Man is motivated by money and he allows Satan to control his life to gain more of it. In fact, even in Christian rock music, if it were not selling so many records and if it didn't pack so many concerts, if it didn't produce such idolizing of the performers... it would die out almost overnight. Money is the name of the game.

Jeremiah 7:8-10 talks about trusting in deceptive words and walking after other gods... and this is called an abomination. An abomination is something that God hates. So, the music is vile, wicked, perverted and is getting worse every day.

Rock music will accept you where you are... and take you where you want to be in a sensual way... and this is the vehicle that is being used by God's arch enemy to destroy you on a moment to moment basis.

This is war! The flames that licked up around the tapes in the fire is even like the fire that is going to torment so many people who will not turn away from this total evil.

Where does this music come from? What does the music of the world reflect? First of all, it is "pulsating rhythms" of the Africans... expressing the restless emotions of the heathen people and showing an apartness from God. When I was teaching in Africa, I would consistently hear the drums and music coming from the depth of the jungle and it sounded very much like the music of the rock scene today. I watched people worked up into such a frenzy that they would go through all sorts of wierd contortions as they expressed their possessed emotions resulting from the music and the beat.

Secondly, Rock incorporates the snake charming music of the East... expressing life without resolution... coming from nowhere and going nowhere. It represents no beginning and no end... in other words reflecting aimlessness. Sound familiar with the eerie repetition we hear at the end of each piece of modern music today?

Then, there are additional influences as the lounge and bar-room music of the western culture... with its objective of seduction. This is the music of sensuality and sexuality. Add to that the "Blues" of the South, reflecting pensive pain and depression, being communicated by the miserable, sad, depressed people from whom it came, and you see a composite of what makes up the rock music scene.

Christian, western music is not the option to rock. It, too, expresses the message of Satan... immorality, fornication, drinking and murder! Go back to men like Hank Williams, the old drunken-doper who died a miserable death after writing the song, "I saw the light." A life lived without the LIGHT will never see the light! There is no other form of music that tries to mix a little religion in with its lyrics to confuse people as does Country-Western music. Contradictions to the messengers of western gospel music include the singer of "Peace in the Valley" singing songs like "Rye Whiskey" and "Smoke, smoke, smoke that cigarette!" In addition, you need to know that western rock is the biggest selling music in this classification. Everything is keying in to "rock"... including western rock, hard rock, soft rock, and gospel rock. Satan hasn't left anyone out.

Christians sometimes dislike good Christian music because they are so used to wallowing in the mire with the pigs that they can't enjoy the lambs! The Body of Christ has been dragged back into the bushes and we must know it. As saved individuals, we need to

raise our voices against the music of today and raise our voice up to God to glorify His name. May God save us from this age of God defying music. Dare to be a Daniel... Dare to stand alone for what is right and wholesome and uplifting. Burn the rock and country music... not the life!

Brother Leonard Wertz

CONFESSION OF SIMON PETER

In Matthew 16:15-16 Christ asked, "Whom say ye that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." Matthew 10:32 says, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my father which is in heaven."

When we all joined our church, we made a confession before God and many witnesses that we believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and brought from heaven a saving gospel. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Acts 8:37 says, "And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God."

Let's uphold what the Apostles preached. The Apostle John says in II John 10 "If there any come unto you and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house neither bid him God speed." That makes it very plain like Simon Peter says "... thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." Why, some people want to contend that He was not the Son of God are on dangerous ground, because John wrote, "... he that has the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son hath not life." "... but the wrath of God abided on him."

When Jesus was at the tomb of Lazarus, John 11:42 says, "And I know that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by, I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." He said, "Lazarus come forth," and he did and there were witnesses to prove it and that proves that He can raise the dead. Jesus said, "... and they that hear shall live." also, "... they that are in their grave shall come forth some to eternal life and some to condemnation."

Jesus said, "Behold I come quickly my reward is with me to give to every man according to what his work shall be."

So let's be on our guard and uphold the doctrine of Jesus Christ and Apostles so we can enter into the Beautiful City with its streets of gold.

Paul Fridley
RD #1, Lewisburg, Ohio

THE LORD'S DAY

J. H. Moore

The resolutions formed on Saturday night or Sunday morning determine the destiny of hundreds if not tens of thousands. The week's work is done, the wages for the toil of six days have been received, and it is a question as to how the morrow shall be spent. Sometimes the question is not settled until Sunday morning. The question is not confined to the day laborer, but it applies to the farmers and others as well.

Among worldly people there might possibly be some excuse for laying pleasure plans for the Lord's Day. They are unconverted, belong to the world and often seek to spend the Lord's Day in a worldly manner. To see them riding over the country, absenting themselves from the place of worship, and seeking the pleasure resorts is no more than might be expected. But why should Christians follow their example? Why should the believers lay pleasure plans on Saturday evening and then rise early on Sunday morning to execute them? Why should devout people leave the house of God and go out into the world for enjoyment?

I once knew a family that was never troubled with this question. In fact, I have known many families that probably never gave the question one moment's thought. But this particular family had its face set Zionward, and on Saturday evening every member retired with the full purpose of spending the Lord's Day in a manner wholly becoming their profession. They arose on Sunday morning with that as a fixed purpose. It was no trouble for them to get ready for Sunday School and meeting. They did not have to make up their minds as to whether they would attend the services that day. That question was settled in their very makeup. It was therefore an easy manner for them to drive eight miles to church.

None of their neighbors thought of visiting them on Sunday forenoon. They knew that was their time to go to church, and everybody for miles around, and all along the road to the meetinghouse, would have thought it strange if they did not go. The people who attended the services, from time to time, always expected to see that particular family on hand when the meeting was opened. If, for any reason, sickness should keep them at home, everybody in meeting, from the elder down, was wondering what was the matter. A family of this kind in a neighborhood is always a power for good.

Then I knew another family that was just the reverse. When Saturday evening came they had no fixed purpose, unless it was to go visiting on Sunday, or work up some excuse for not going to meeting. If they meant to have a good time on the Lord's Day they

could be up bright and early on Sunday morning, fully prepared to carry out their purpose without a hitch. They often complained that they could not get ready in time to reach the Sunday School at ten, two miles away, but it never seemed a task for them to drive ten miles to the picnic, or the camp meeting in the grove.

In appearance the father and mother looked like Christians. Seeing them driving along the road on Sunday morning, most any stranger would have regarded them as devout church members. But their conduct and looks did not correspond, and often caused many remarks among the outside people as well as among the members of the church. Their neighbors knew, of course, that they belonged to the church, but never could understand just why they seemed to be so little interested in what was going on at the meetinghouse. They were never known to take anybody along to preaching, but would now and then take some of their neighbors with them to other places.

The members of this family appeared to be guilty of no special sin, and yet they were no credit to the church. They belonged to the congregation, but were a very poor light to the world. In fact they were almost a hindrance to the cause, their influence being mainly in the wrong direction. All of this was for the want of a fixed purpose to serve the Lord with a whole heart.

Selected from Our Saturday Night

MY TEST

I am taking a test
Of my life here on earth -
Since I accepted Christ
And received second birth.
Here are questions I ask --
Do I still love His Word?
Am I much happier
Since He is my Shepherd?

Is my faith still as strong
As it was years ago?
Does my "light" shine brightly
So others see it glow?
Do I pray as often
As the Lord wants me to?
Do I ask for wisdom
And His way still pursue?

Am I kind to others -
And share when there's need?
Do I have compassion
And sow only good seed?
Is there peace in my heart
And do I, my voice raise -
Singing hymns to my Lord,
Daily, giving Him praise?

Do I thank Him enough
For blessings He's given?
And do I look forward
To a home in Heaven?
Am I still determined
To press toward His goal,
Where at last, there is rest
For my poor weary soul?

Do I ask forgiveness
Of any I offend,
If it be enemy,
Brother, sister or friend?
Does "everlasting life"
Fill me with a desire
To patiently serve Christ
Through Chastisement and fire?

Am I bringing forth fruits
And laying up treasure -
So when I get to Heav'n
I'll have beyond measure?
Do I want salvation
For my soul bad enough
That I will deny "self"
And Satan I'll rebuff?

The Lord knows the answers
To these questions above,
He knows if I've been true,
If I'm filled with His love.
The Lord knows all my past -
He knows my future, too,
O may I not do deeds
Displeasing to His view.

- Irene Stout

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1925

NOT SATISFIED

B. E. Kesler

Judging from what we know from experience, and from what we read, very few are satisfied with the churches to which they belong. The desire for something new is perhaps as great as it was with a community mentioned in the New Testament. But that desire in the long ago got the people nowhere, and we are safe in saying that the same desire in these days will avail just as little.

Many new things are good and to be desired; they increase our comfort and our ability to get things done. But without exception that refers only to the things that have to do with this world. Some things cannot be improved: the plan of salvation is one of these things. And yet it is one of the things which men have tried hardest to improve and make over according to their own notions. So far as we can judge, the only result of all the effort has been to get men farther from the Word of God. The great desire seems to get rid of the divine in the word and make it over as man wants it. Many of the world's misfortunes are due to this effort to put man's word in the place of or above God's Word.

Practically, we are told by these men who claim to have so much knowledge of divine things that when we get the deep meaning of the New Testament we find that it is not what the words say, but something different, vastly different, which they in their wisdom have been able to make out of it. But there is at stake the most important thing to our lives, and we do not care to risk the salvation of our souls on the theories of these men, no matter how famous they may be. We trust to something much more reliable than any man.

But to come back to the point from which we started. If people were satisfied with their churches they would not be trying so hard to make them over. Those of us who have reached or passed middle age know what changes have taken place in the various denominations. They are far from being what they were, and only the Lord knows what they will be in ten or twenty years more. Just consider what has been brought into the churches. There is no frivolity barred. Very few games are shut out. The very room dedicated to the worship of God and the teaching of his word has become a place of amusement, of almost anything except the one thing that Jesus said it was to be, — a house of prayer. And the people who bring the world, the flesh and the devil into the sanctuary say, and probably believe, that they are doing God service.

If people were satisfied that all is well with them, there would not be such a mad desire for distraction, for excitement of any and every

kind. It seems that they are trying to forget something, to keep out of their minds the one really important thing for them. They seek forgetfulness of their duty in any way possible. And yet how much easier it would be for them, how much more life would hold for them if they would but become humble and obedient children of the Father in heaven. They know not the things that belong to their peace, and they would be too proud to seek and follow them if they did know them.

Such a course as this does not lead to the peace which Christ left with his followers. There is a peace which passes understanding for those who seek it according to the directions given in the Book. It is not to be found otherwise. But man in general is so taken up with the present fast way of living that it is really impossible for him to seek this peace as directed. His nature would have to be changed before he could do that; and he does not want his nature changed — he is too well satisfied that he is doing right. He could not give up his pleasures, his disbased appetites and sinful desires.

And we are headed in the same direction. Things which a few years ago would not have been tolerated in one of our houses of worship are now the regular thing. Politics, pleasure, business enter in, and the Spirit goes out. What has changed our course so radically? As we look at it, there is just one thing, under which might be included several. We have lost our faith, our first love, our desire to obey, no matter at what cost to ourselves. Will we continue in our present course, which cannot but bear us far away from our desired heaven, or will we change our course and sail toward the haven of eternal happiness?

If we take up Christ's yoke and learn of him we shall find rest to our souls. We have no assurance of finding it in any other way. There is only one safe way, and we cannot afford to go astray from it. Nothing of the world can give the peace of God, which passeth understanding; and nothing that the world can offer has any real value when compared with this peace. We can have the peace or we can go through the world seeking distraction. Which will we seek?

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BRETHREN GONE?

The liberal's theology is probably the one most heard. Putting our faith in human works rather than God's Word. Questions of Christ's deity are "soft pedaled" or ignored. "One big happy family" is the goal they are working toward. The postive thinkers may be the next most popular in line. They teach to stay away form all negatives, so everything is fine.

No preaching on Hell or personal sins, with a few exceptions rare. To point out problems in the Church is to say you do not care.

The charismatic movement has certainly made its presence felt. It has helped many Bible teachings a death blow to be dealt. We welcome their joy, their love, and especially their zeal. But we must contend, in love, that the whole Bible is "our mean."

There is a sprinkling of "Fundamentalist" thinking in our midst today. Preachers endorsing military involvement and "eternal security" some minds do sway.

Salvation is stressed but much discipline teaching is completely ignored.

With these we will also contend, we wish to use the "whole sword."

Theories on top of theories along with interpretations galore. Everything but "Brethren" thought is welcome at the church door. But is it merely "Brethrenism" that causes our heart such concern? No, it is the teaching of the Holy Word we wish to see return!

(This poem is written in loving concern to those "Brethren" who have Alexander Mack as their founder.)

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

OBITUARY

FLORENCE HALDEMAN

Florence Candace Haldeman, the daughter of David and Edith Ikenberry was born at Quinter, Kansas, February 3, 1888 and departed this life July 11, 1985, at the age of 97 years, 5 months, 8 days.

She was united in marriage August 4, 1909, to John Haldeman, who preceded her in death December, 1978. Together they enjoyed sixty-nine wonderful years of married life farming in Kansas for thirty-seven years, moving to Dallas Center in 1946. To this union was born four children; Beulah Edith, Millard Sidney, Floyd John and Lois Florence. Beulah preceded her in death in August, 1944. Four brothers also preceded her in death. Left to mourn her loss are her children and their companions Millard and Floyd of Dallas Center, Iowa; Lois of West Des Moines, Iowa; one sister, Viola Eisenbise, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania; one brother, Herbert Ikenberry, Wanatchee, Washington; seven grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Florence accepted the Lord as her Saviour at an early age and

lived a Biblical devoted Christian life. She served in various offices of the church, teaching and serving as church chorister for many years. She was a lover of nature, especially devoting much time to gardening and flowers.

The last few years of her life, being confined to her home, she spent much time in God's Word, the sharing of it, and giving encouragement to family and others.

While we are sorrowing because of her departure, we rejoice in the assurance of meeting our loved one in the great beyond.

We feel the following poem which we found in her Bible was left for our comfort.

When I am gone, remember I'm with Jesus:
Then do not grieve because I've passed away
Life holds so many griefs and disappointments,
And will you weep because I did not stay?

Weep not because I walk no longer with you:
Remember, I am walking streets of gold:
Weep for yourselves that you awhile must tarry
Before the blessed Lord you may behold.

NEWS ITEMS

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church wishes to invite you to our series of revival meetings.

Bro. Fred Pifer of Dallas Center, Iowa will bring the messages September 15 through September 22, 1985. Lovefeast Services will be the evening of September 21.

We welcome you all in the presence or prayer.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

We invite everyone to come fellowship with us at Quinter during our revival meetings, October 6 through 13. Lovefeast services will be held on Saturday, October 12. Bro. Virgil Leatherman will be our evangelist, and we know that God will work through him to bring us some wonderful messages. We hope you can come!

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans a Lovefeast on Sunday, October 13. All are welcome. Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER, 1985

October 6 - Nathan and David - II Sam. 12:1-31.

1. Of what sins was David guilty? What punishment did God pronounce upon him?
2. What evil did the Lord tell David would come upon his house?

October 13 - Ammon and Tamar - II Sam. 13:1-39.

1. Were the sins of Ammon sent to punish David for his sins? II Sam. 12:11.
2. Did the persons involved in the previous suffer alone for their sins or did the rest of God's people suffer with them?

October 20 - Absalom Returns - II Sam. 14:1-22.

1. Did David do right in protecting Absalom? What was the result?
2. How did he become reconciled to his father?

October 27 - Absalom Conspires against David - II Sam. 15:1-37.

1. In what way did Absalom win the confidence of the people?
2. Was verse 22 a fulfillment of God's judgment on David? Ch. 12:11

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER, 1985

October 6 - Sources of Temptation - Gen. 3:1-6; Matt. 3:1-11; Eph. 6:11.

1. Does the Lord tempt any man? How does Jesus say temptation comes?
2. Is it a sin to be tempted? Or is yielding to the tempter where sin begins?

October 13 - Cross Bearing - Matt. 10:38; Matt. 11:28-30; Luke 14:26-27.

1. What does the Cross represent in our Christian life? Gal. 2:20.
2. What does the Christian have to die to? Rom. 6:11.

October 20 - Possessions - Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:15-21.

1. In Luke 12:16-21 what had the rich man failed to do?
2. What can happen to earthly treasures? Prov. 23:5.

October 27 - The House on a Rock - Matt. 7:24-29; Luke 6:46-49.

1. Why is it important, in our Christian life, to be careful where we build?
2. Isaiah 28:16 tells us what type of foundation we are to build on.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LX III

OCTOBER 1, 1985

NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MY SOUL, BE ON THY GUARD

My soul, be on thy guard;
Ten thousand foes arise;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies.

O watch, and fight, and pray;
The battle ne'er give o'er;
Renew it boldly ev'ry day,
And help divine implore.

Ne'er think the vict'ry won,
Nor lay thine armor down;
The work of faith will not be done,
Till thou obtain the crown.

Fight on, my soul, till death
Shall bring thee to thy God;
He'll take thee, at thy parting breath,
To His divine abode.

- George Heath

OUR DREAMS AND REALITY

Probably all of us have had dreams concerning our material affairs. We have wished for a large sum of money; we have wanted to be debt-free; we have wished for a larger and nicer home and we have hoped for many other comforts and conveniences in our lives. There may be other dreams concerning education, occupation or marriage. For most of us these dreams remain just that. Some of our dreams may reveal a streak of selfishness, others may reveal a desire for comfort and ease. Some few may attain their material dreams; most do not. It is not necessarily wrong to have these dreams fulfilled if gathered legally and morally and if used to glorify God.

While many may condemn wealth today, we find that Jesus never condemned the wealth, only the means and uses of its gathering. Jesus did condemn the Pharisees for using the House of God to make their contaminated riches. Jesus did not honor men because of their riches as many have done. The riches may or may not be a blessing bestowed upon them by God. There is no natural aristocracy as advocated by many who claim the presence of wealth and position is a sign of God's favor and approval upon them. Some may gain their wealth by unsavory means then claim it came at God's direction. Some may sooth their conscience by using their wealth for religious, civic or philanthropic purposes.

The dreams behind the getting of wealth may for most be but hopes and wishes with little chance of fulfillment. When the dreams become specific goals they may come closer to fulfillment. A specific goal is easier to work toward than a general dream that is too nebulous and far-fetched to be worked toward seriously. It is safe to say that nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished without a serious goal and a plan of action, although this might have been

THE BIBLE MONITOR

OCTOBER 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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done unwittingly.

The dreams of material affairs are often comparable to dreams of a Spiritual nature. Many have dreams of great religious happenings but these events never happen. We all think how wonderful to have the meeting house packed full and even overflowing, to have converts galore and to have members sincerely interested in doing right and living daily for Christ and the Church. But it seems these things are more of a dream than reality.

What would happen if all our dreams came true either materially or Spiritually? We would be like a spoiled child with everything his heart could desire. We would lose our appreciation of what we did have. The most expensive things would seem cheap to us and we would treat them accordingly. Possessions may just be things but still we are to treat them well and not destroy them unnecessarily. Even Spiritual things could become cheapened in our view and we would not reverence them as we should.

If there were no backsets in our religious life we would say it was easy with no challenge. Strength is gained through adversity. To have all produces very weak Christians. In America the Church has been blessed with peace and prosperity. There is no real physical persecution like suffered in some lands. There is plenty as far as the financial needs of the Church go. This may seem a blessing but it has also left the Church weakened because it does not know adversity. Outside of nagging problems, the Church has had it very easy. To have meeting houses full to overflowing is a worthy aim but it can be a disadvantage rather than an advantage.

With the house full there is no push to gather others in, there is no place for them. With a large congregation there are not enough positions available to give a large number of members training in leadership so a keenness in interest may be lost. A full, filled congregation is easily lulled into Spiritual sleep. The Great Commission says to "go" not to "sit still." More can be accomplished by a number of smaller more active congregations than by one large inactive congregation. The old military theorem of "divide and conquer" is appropriate when applied to the Great Commission in action.

Dreams are necessary to accomplish the tasks of life but they will not all be fulfilled even when selfless and good. God knows how best to dole out what we are to have. He knows what will be for our Spiritual good as well as what, although good, could be a hindrance to us.

Dream about what you wish to accomplish either temporally or Spiritually. But make your dreams into goals you can specifically labor towards. Be realistic in realizing that God is the final judge of what is good or ill for us temporally and Spiritually. Continue to serve Him whatever the outcome of your dreams.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"One Last Look at Music"

In these last days we need to be living every moment in the conscious presence of Jesus Christ. As much as lieth within us, our thoughts must be patterned after His thoughts and our ways after His ways. We must be "focused in" to His will. Too many lives are out of focus and are poorly defined.

We talk so much about the FLESH... just what exactly is it? It is the place in us where Satan resides with his temptations. It is that part of our humanness that is exposed to the desire to sin. The flesh is opposed to goodness.

One of the things which shows a life that is filled with the Spirit of God is SINGING. God teaches us that singing praises shows forth a spiritual countenance. You say... "Well, I sing in a monotone! How is this for me?" The Bible doesn't say that you have to sing on key. It doesn't even say that anyone has to listen to you. But, your emotions will be released in song.

Singing is the expression of the emotion of the soul. God has put this music in the soul of man and releases it in its most beautiful form by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

It starts from the heart. Col. 3:16 says that when you are filled with the Word of Christ, you are going to sing "with grace in your heart..." It always starts from the heart and goes to the Lord.

It is an expression of joy. James 5:13 states: "Is any merry? Let him sing psalms."

The word "new" is frequently used in the Bible in relation with the word "song." This is because the redeemed will sing a new song... different from anything in this sinful world. It may not be new in content and form, but it is new in kind, character and quality. In fact, the term "new song" in the scripture is always connected with redemption. This is an indication that it is salvation that produces the new song in our hearts. Ps. 33 reads, "Sing unto Him a new song..."

Even at the end of the Lord's supper, the last thing they did before they parted from the upper room was to sing a hymn. Paul and Silas sang in prison and in I Cor. 14:15, Paul taught us to "sing with the spirit and with understanding."

God loves music... music which rightly reflects Him. To sing is to celebrate Christ together. And remember, singing and music is not primarily a tool of evangelism. It is primarily an expression of a Spirit filled life and is not really intended for the world. It is sad that we want to sing our songs in the world and put them in the

world's verbiage and think they are going to be evangelistic.

Revelations 18:22 teaches us that the music of the world is going to stop someday. Man has corrupted it like he has corrupted every other gift of God. Can you imagine a world without music? I have often pondered the fact that there will be no music in hell... no song to sing... only cries of agony while the sounds of music will fill the heavenly mansions. The sound of heaven is harmony... the sound of hell is the weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Our music must glorify God. How do we know if it will be acceptable to Him? We might ask ourselves three basic questions: 1. Is it offered to the Lord as a gift of praise? 2. Do the words rightly reflect God's thoughts, attitudes and revelation? 3. Is the accompaniment, tune or method with which it is sung honoring to God? There must be a beauty and a distinctiveness to our music so that it is clearly offered to God and it is clearly NOT a part of the world system.

Our music is to be composed of "singing and making melody..." Singing comes from the greek word "ado" which means "to sing with the voice." The human voice is the most beautiful instrument ever made and it is incredibly flexible. God has given us a wonderful tool for praising Him. This is one of the reasons we do not use a piano or organ in the conservative church.

We are to make our music in "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." Psalms is from the Greek word "psalmos" which means Old Testament Psalms and they basically speak of the NATURE and work of God.

Hymns (from the Greek, "humnos") means a song of praise. They are usually connected with the WORK of Christ. Many scholars believe that Col. 1:15-18 and Phil. 2:6-11 were early church hymns. These, then, are directed toward the redemptive work of Christ.

Spiritual songs indicate songs sung by believers to express personal JOY and TESTIMONY.

There is a wonderful verse in Heb. 2:12 where Jesus says, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." Jesus literally sings praises to the Father through His people when they are singing with a Spirit filled heart.

So, as our hearts are filled with the Spirit, as the joy of the Spirit wells up within us, and as we offer our songs of praise and thanksgiving to God... it is Jesus singing through us, praising the Father in us. What a thought and what a responsibility. PRAISE THE LORD WITH MUSIC!

Brother Leonard Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1925

DOCTRINE

B. E. Breshears

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breast." Isaiah 28:9.

The word doctrine means teaching, that which is taught. Good doctrine is good teaching. Bad doctrine is bad teaching. Scriptural doctrine is scriptural teaching. The word has gotten to be distasteful to a good many people because they think it savors of "sectarianism." They think it bad form to hold to some particular doctrines especially that which cannot be accepted by all professing Christians.

Every one of us who teach or pretend to teach either our own children or others, in the home, Sunday School or pulpit, should be able to say as Jesus did: "My doctrine is not mine but his that sent me." Every religious teacher should be able to say this. Solomon says: "Hear ye children the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake not my law." Prov. 4:2. All religious teaching should be like this.

Good doctrine received and followed will produce a good life. It will bring forth the fruits of righteousness. The best doctrine ever given to the world is the Gospel of Christ which "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Those who adhere most closely to the Gospel will be the purest in life, in principles and in their dealings will be the most just and fair with their fellow man. Paul says: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. Again he tells us to "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior... For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world. This is what the doctrine of the Gospel will do for us. It will bring forth the "fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Jesus said that he taught not his own but the doctrine of his Father who sent him. When the people heard the great sermon on the mount, "they were astonished at his doctrine." Why was this? It was "because he taught them as one having authority." If we teach the doctrine of the Bible we will speak with all the authority of God: "all authority in heaven and earth." All power will be with

and behind us.

The apostles shortly after the resurrection and ascension of Christ began to teach the doctrine of the Gospel. The Jewish authorities commanded them not to teach in the name of Jesus. They said to them: we told you not to do this and "behold you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine." They answered: "We ought to obey God rather than man." This is very good doctrine still.

Now if we teach Bible doctrine it will be the great truths about God, Christ, Holy Spirit, sin, atonement, redemption, ordinances, or anything taught in the Bible. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Paul mentioned what he calls "the principles of the doctrine of Christ." He says: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, the doctrine of baptism, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment." Heb. 6:1-2. The first principles of christian doctrine are here enumerated.

The prophet asks: "Whom shall we make to understand doctrine." This should mean Bible truths. In our time it should mean that which we are to teach in order to make Christians. What is this to be?

If we plant certain seeds in the earth they will with the warmth of the sun and moisture and fertility in the soil produce plants. In this way we may expect beautiful flowers, or vegetables, or grain according to the seed sown. If there is seed of "russian thistle" "china lettuce" or "Jim Hill mustard" in the seed sown we may expect these to appear in the crop.

Religion is defined as a system of faith, a form of worship." If we would make converts to any religious faith we would need to teach the doctrines defined as the system of faith held by such sect. If we wanted to make Mohammedans we would not teach Confucian doctrine. If we wished to make protestant converts we would not take the child weaned from the milk and drawn from the breast, and teach it the Catholic doctrine, for in that case we would make a Catholic. So of Methodists, Baptists, disciples or any others including Dunkards. The particular doctrines of any of these must be taught to produce their like.

But leaving all sects out of the question it must be admitted that if we are to make christians tried and true there is nothing to equal the pure Gospel of Christ. This is the true seed and any admixtures will not help. This is the "word of God" and "the sower soweth

the word." However, if we only wish to produce what might be called a "nominal Christian" I would suggest that we just give him a "religious education." This might be most any kind of doctrine and he would not need to be troubled about "doctrinal principles" in particular.

True christians in every sense of the word are produced by the pure seed the word of God. Paul says: "Though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached let him be accursed." Oh, for an unswerving faith in the word of God. Oh, for a determination to live its precepts according to our light. May we pray for an humble mind and spirit to lead us to "walk in the light as he is in the light that the blood of Jesus Christ may cleanse us from all sin."

The seed we sow or the doctrine we accept or teach will sometime be tested for its purity. How good it would be if this testing could be done before it is sown because "whatever a man soweth that shall he reap." The testing may come at a time when it is too late. In the 20th verse of this 28th chapter of Isaiah we have our attention called to a man trying to stretch himself on a bed too short and trying to wrap himself in a covering too narrow. What a predicament. Bed too short and blanket too narrow. This is like Ephraim and Judah who had failed in their religious life. They had accepted wrong teaching, wrong doctrine, they had been led to make a "covenant with death and an agreement with hell." They had "made lies their refuge."

The true seed had been sown but they had not been made to understand doctrine. God had spoken to them "precept upon precept, precept upon precept: line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little," yet they "would not hear." Therefore God said to them: "Judgment will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand: when the overflowing scourge shall pass through then ye shall be trodden down by it." No protection for such. Bed too short and blanket too narrow.

So it will be with many who hear the Gospel doctrine. It may be given precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little and there a little; but the seed has not grown. The doctrine has not been accepted. The "grace of God which bringeth salvation" has been rejected. The final wail of such will be "the harvest is past the summer ended, and we are not saved.

THE TWO SWORDS

Luke 22:38, "And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough."

There is a quiet movement among the anti-gun control groups to have a law passed that would make it mandatory for every head of household to have a gun in their possession. IF such a law were passed we would have to decide whether or not we as Christians would obey. We are not opposed to Christians owning guns for legitimate purposes, such as hunting. But we strongly disagree with those who teach that Christ commanded that every person MUST have a weapon in their possession who is head of a household.

These teachers like to quote Luke 22:36, "Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip; and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one." Christ was addressing all of His disciples but our opening verse would lead us to believe that He was not giving this command to ALL of them. Just previous to this (verse 34) Christ had told Peter that he would deny Him. In the verse following verse 36 Christ says that they were to get a sword because prophecy must be fulfilled. "For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end."

The individuals we are dealing with rightly teach that Jesus Christ had to die for our sins. This was an important part of the prophecy spoken of in Luke 22:37. For in John 18:11 we read, "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" But in this same chapter in verse 36 we read, "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but my kingdom is not from hence." As we understand "but my kingdom is not from hence" Jesus Christ was telling us that His followers would never use violence to protect His work. Some of the individuals would agree with this statement, then turn around and state that we must go to war and fight such evils as Communism to protect our religious liberty!

Remember that our opening verse speaks of TWO swords. Also keep in mind that a sword can be symbolic of violence, as when Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest, and of separation, as illustrated in Matthew 10:34-37. In our day this could also be spoken of as a gun, knife, or even a baseball bat. It is very significant to us that TWO individuals openly departed from the faith in the same chapter of our opening verse. In verses 47 and

48 of Luke 22 we find that Judas betrayed Christ, thus departing from the faith. In verses 54 to 61 we find that Peter denied Christ, thus departing from the faith. For we read in Matthew 10:32 and 33 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before man him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." In verse 62 of Luke 22 we find that Peter "went out and wept bitterly". We believe these were tears of repentance. Judas, on the other hand, never truly repented and died a death of violence. Both were separated from their Lord but one chose to return.

We hope we have had the leading of the Holy Spirit in this interpretation of the two swords. If there is one area where our conservative Brethren have been influenced by outside sources it is in the area of self-defense. Many of our practices are in contrast to those in the Old Testament and we rightly state that this is because Jesus Christ went beyond the law. He had the right to do this because he was God in the flesh. But can we be completely true to Jesus Christ and have weapons in our homes for self defense or to defend our loved ones? If we could truly accept the power of prayer and the keeping power of God through His Holy Spirit we would not fall for the teaching of those who tell us we must defend ourselves and those we love with carnal weapons.

We have heard it argued that the "old Brethren" did not practice non-resistance to this extent. We are not convinced this is true of the majority of them, but even if it were we must follow Jesus Christ and not Brethren tradition which is not true to Scripture! May God give us the strength and courage to be true to Him no matter what the cost. We are convinced that NOTHING can happen to us or our loved ones unless it is within the will of God, if we have given our lives completely to Him.

In closing, in I Cor. 10:13 we read, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." And in Matthew 28:20, "... Io, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Verses such as these give us the courage to be faithful to Matthew 5:39 "... That ye resist not evil..."

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078



I fear God, and next to God I chiefly fear him who fears him not. —
Saadi.

HOLDING CHRIST UP BEFORE THE WORLD

It does not make alot of difference where we are born. How we improve our lives is what counts when we come to the time of knowing right from wrong.

Clara was born in Chicago, Illinois, near a mission called Hasting Street Mission which was run by volunteers from Bethany Bible School. One evening this girl and her girl-friend were crossing a street from one theater to another as both of them belonged to the world and they loved to go to different theaters. But this time the Lord seemed to have a hand in this. Their attention was attracted to a message given by some of the workers from Bethany Bible School. They both listened and a voice within caused Clara to stop.

She was so deeply impressed that she started to come regularly to the services at the mission, never missing a service. Soon the Lord touched her. Her life was changed and she gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized. She was always true to the Lord although she had lots to endure.

She felt a call from the Lord to give up a good position and work for Him, depending wholly upon Him for her support. Although it was a hard step for her to take, she did it willingly. She often told her friends how the Lord had so wonderfully fulfilled His promise and was supplying all her needs so she never wanted for anything. At this mission she did a lot of work for the Lord and in this neighborhood among the people she grew up with she proclaimed the wonderful Christ to all her friends. She was always willing to tell them of the One who was willing to die on the cross to save her soul and every one who would come to Him.

She won many to Christ in her short life. She loved each of them and they loved her. As she worked among them she showed the Christ Life, in her life. She worked till God called her Home in the summer of 1920, to serve Him in a larger sphere.

Sister E. M. Alltus

"BIG I" AND "LITTLE YOU"

Now "BIG I" and "little you"
Walked together one day,
Said "BIG I" to "little you"
"You do just what I say
And you will be more happy
Than e'er you've been before,
For I know just what to do
And YOU can learn much more."

So "little you" did just what
"BIG I" had said to do --
And bumped right into "trouble"
Who had gone that way too -
He sat down and rubbed his eyes
And said, "Oh, surely this
Is not the way I should go,
The right way I did miss.

I'll go back and start over,
This time I'll get my book,
I'll find the right direction,
I'll take a second look...
I'll study to make certain
That way that I should go
And not take another's word
Unless I know 'tis so."

So "little you" went right back
And talked to "GREAT BIG I"
And said, "That was the wrong way,
Let's find the reason why."
But "BIG I" thought he was right
And kept on that smooth road
Thought, "When I meet "Old Trouble"
Well, I'll just dump my load."

Thought then he'd make a detour,
And that he'd miss old "Strife"
But found HIM just ahead
To mess up all his life....
The road was getting bumpy
And so dark seemed the way,
He thought, "Maybe "little you"
Had found a brighter day."

So he started back, hunting
For a BOOK like "you" had found,
Then in it he'd find there was
A peaceful higher ground...
He'd learn of ONE, named Jesus
Who'd take him by the hand
And lead him through rough places,
E'en to a Holy Land.

"Praise God, I've found directions
For the way that I should go,
Oh, how wrong I was before,

I'll let "little you" know...
Then when "I" came and found him
We both were the SAME SIZE...
Oh, I wonder what Christ thought
Of the pride in my eyes?

I will pray for forgiveness,
I'm making a new start
And I will thank Him because
I now can have a part
Of His celestial city
Where all saints make their goal,
They will be spared burning fire
For their dear humble soul.

What a joy to know Jesus
As my Saviour and King -
To know He's the Blessed ROCK,
On to Him I can cling,
If turmoil is about me
I have a peace within,
Knowing that Christ's precious blood
Has cleansed me from all sin.

I have turned around, -- away -
From that old downward road
And I now let my Saviour
Help me carry my load,
He tells His yoke is easy
And His burden is light,
He can banish forever
The darkest fearful night.

That's the end of "little you"
And I'm no longer "BIG" —
Christ says we are His branches,
Though I feel like a "twig"
But if I let my light shine —
Extend to all my love...
God may accept humble me
In His bright Home above."

- Irene Stout



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 1, 1985.

1. The names and addresses of the editor, publishers, and owners are: EDITOR, Milton Cook, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223; PUBLISHER, Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, OH 43567; OWNER, Dunkard Brethren Church, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

2. There are no stockholders, bond holders or other security holders.

3. The average number of copies per issue distributed by mail and otherwise the previous twelve months was 1,450.

MARRIAGES

GORMAN - STAUFFER

Bro. Edward Stauffer, son of Bro. and Sis. Edwin Stauffer, Newmanstown, Pennsylvania and Sis. Linda Gorman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gorman, Manheim, Pennsylvania were united in marriage July 20, 1985 by Elder Allen Eberly at the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church.

The couple will make their home at R.D. 1 Box 282, Newmanstown, Pennsylvania 17073.

JOSLIN - LORENZ

Sister Jane Joslin and Brother Doyle Lorenz were united in marriage the 11th of August, 1985. The wedding service was held in the Dunkard Brethren Church in Dallas Center, Iowa. The Service was performed by Brother Fred Pifer.

The groom is working as a Respiratory Therapist and the bride is employed as a Kindergarten teacher. Both are attending college part-time.

The couple's address is 7287 Chinook Circle, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219.

NEWS ITEMS**LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Lord willing, the Lititz Congregation plans a Revival meeting November 4 through 17. We are looking forward to having Elder Hayes Reed from Modesto, California as our Evangelist.

Everyone is invited to come and worship with us. Help us pray for the lost souls and the love and unity of the church.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

"THANKS"

I would like to thank all the Brothers and Sisters over the Brotherhood who remembered me after my hospital stay and surgery. It meant so much to receive cards, letters from those who I know but don't often see. A Special thank you to all those who have given so abundantly of your time, food for our family and visits and love gifts.

A special thank you to the Lititz Congregation for their Love Offering. The Lord has blessed so much. And may He bless each one of you for your caring and giving.

In Christian Love,
Sister Donna Burkholder

THANK YOU

I want to thank each and everyone for the visits, cards, flowers, letters and gifts, especially for your prayers while recuperating from the injuries in the hospital and since returning home.

May God bless you all.

Sister Dorothy Marks

A NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to thank each and everyone for remembering me while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home.

Every prayer, card, visit, telephone call and act of love was very much appreciated.

May God richly bless each one abundantly is my prayer.

Brother Delma Stump

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

You are cordially invited to our October 26 Lovefeast. If the Lord tarries, services will be 10:00 A.M.: 2:00 P.M., and 7:00 P.M. for the Lovefeast. There will be the usual Sunday services.

We should have a sweet consolation in the fellowship of the saints.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

OCTOBER 15, 1985

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OH, COULD I FIND

Oh, could I find, from day to day,
A nearness to my God,
Then would my hours glide swift away
While leaning on his Word.

Lord, I desire with thee to live
Anew from day to day,
In joys the world can never give
Nor ever take away.

Blest Jesus, come and rule my heart,
And make me wholly thine,
That I may nevermore depart,
Nor grieve thy love divine.

Thus, till my last, expiring breath,
Thy goodness I'll adore;
And when my frame dissolves in death,
My soul shall love thee more.

- B. Cleaveland

IS YOUR HEART STILL IN EGYPT?

The long journey to the Promised Land had just begun for the children of Israel. They had left their homes in the Land of Goshen. Their first obstacle had been the Red Sea. With God's help, what seemed a barrier had become their salvation. They had crossed dryshod but the pursuing Egyptians had been drowned. They had since then come a distance across the desert to the foot of Mt. Sinai.

There Moses had left them to go up in the mount to receive further instructions and ordinances from God. Joshua had accompanied him part way up, so Aaron had been left in charge of the people in the camp.

The people grew weary of waiting for Moses to return. There is ever a spirit of impatience within men's hearts. Sometimes, though, God has other plans. He wants men to wait that they might be better suited for the forward journey. With their impatience rising, the people began to think back to their former homes in Egypt. They did not think of the bondage that had opposed them. Looking back always magnifies the good things and may lessen the evil, hard and harsh things. They thought of those things that were appealing to the physical man. They thought first of the produce of Egypt. They then began to recall the Egyptian's heathen worship.

They prevailed upon Aaron to make them an image to worship like the Egyptians. The golden calf had been one of the images of their heathen neighbors. The people began to imitate their old neighbors. They began by feasting and drinking and continued by partying. Finally it ended up in debauchery. They undressed and likely participated in some of the adulterous practices of the heathen worship of that time. They certainly were not acting like God's people, whom He had delivered out of bondage in Egypt.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

OCTOBER 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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They were at Mt. Sinai waiting for further instructions from God but their hearts were still in Egypt. They were looking back to what had been a sad time of bondage instead of looking forward to the Promised Land that was set before them. That Land should have been a wonderful goal, set before them in contrast with where they had been. But their hearts were still in Egypt. The pleasures of Egypt were more enticing to them than the goal of entering the place God had prepared for them. There were many times during their forty year journey when they looked wistfully back. Although they were out of Egypt, Egypt was not out of them.

The children of Israel were not the last who have retained Egypt within their hearts and minds. These include many who have never been close to seeing the country of Egypt but who have been affected by Egypt spiritually. Throughout the Bible, Egypt is a picture of darkness, sin and worldliness. The same desires that kept the children of Israel wed to Egypt still keep Christians interested in the clinging to the world.

Just as their hearts desired not the physical presence of the country of Egypt so the Christian may have no great desire for the physical world of today. But it was the pleasures of Egypt that ensnared them and the pleasures of the world that still ensnare many who should be clean escaped from past worldly bondage.

It does not matter how long or how far Christians have traveled toward the Promised Land, they are subject to relapses of desire for the pleasures of the world. These relapses may come in differing forms.

Of all places, the Christian may begin thinking of Egypt during worship services. The mind may stray from the song, prayer or sermon currently before it and begin to think about something else. It may be the weather outside the meeting house. It may be the upcoming noon meal. It may be something connected with school or business. Or it may be something concerning the personal life. Whatever distracts from the services is an intrusion of the world into the place where it should not be.

Inattention may be a problem for all at sometime or another. It may not be entirely avoidable. But Egypt has a way of slipping into the Christian's life in a more dominant way. What may come in a subtle small way can soon grow into a dominance that can in the end ruin a Spiritual life.

The world may wrap its tenacles around us in many different ways. It may come in the form of a desire to possess things. It may be a rebellion against the Church. There are so many ways Satan can come to us to draw our affections and desire from serving God to serving self.

It is well for each of us to check up often to see if Egypt might have slipped into our hearts unbeknownst to us. We should use every means to get the world out so we can progress in our journey toward Heaven.

LOVE IS --

I Corinthians 13

"Love is an act of will, not feelings or emotions. Love is giving yourself to others, to do what's best for them." Love is both attitude and action, motivation and movement. It comes from God and flows out of us. God's love in us is the vital, life-giving force which makes our lives worthwhile and meaningful. Love is not something we can hoard up — it must be given out — because it is like a flowing well. A flowing well or spring just keeps on giving and that is what God's love in us does.

Love is what keeps us committed and loyal to God and man. It is that caring force (not just emotion) which makes us want what's best for others. It makes us want to please God, because we know He loves us. Love is what enables us to go beyond the call of duty in life, to go the second, third, or even the fourth mile to help someone. People can give a glowing testimony of how important God is to them, of how they wish to please Him. Yet if God's love is not in their hearts, all their talk is meaningless.

Being able to understand the Bible is good, having lots of faith is good, but these alone aren't enough. Love is what makes all this meaningful, and indicates that we really believe in what we talk about. True love — God's love — is a vital part of the Christian life and it promotes action, not just empty promises. Love makes us care what happens to those about us, as if we don't love, we won't care, and if we don't care, we won't do anything to help anyone else.

Love is a gift of God and it takes this love to make us valuable in God's work. Love is more than just being charitable, such as giving food or clothes to the needy, helping the sick, and so forth. Even unbelievers can do this. But it takes a special love — God's love in us — to go beyond charity and really touch someone's heart. Mere charity looks after the body, but love reaches the soul. This love goes on caring even when rejected, knowing the unlovable ones need love even more.

Love is patient, kind, able to endure. It isn't envious, boastful or haughty, but is happy because others are happy. Love isn't conceited, rude or unmannerly, but is more concerned about the welfare of others than of self. Love is not touchy, nor does it keep a record of other's wrongs. Love is happy when good things happen, but is ready for anything which comes along. Love faces problems with hope, with a good attitude toward others, and doesn't quit even when the

going gets rough.

One definition of love is "to feel great tenderness for." Another is "an intense, affectionate (tender) concern for another." Tenderness is compassion, kindness, and so forth. Love is hard to define because it is so special. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." I John 3:1a. We can't define God's love adequately, but we can know it is above measure when God opens His arms to us and calls us His children.

God's love is without conditions or restrictions. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. This simply means that God loves us in spite of what we are and doesn't limit His love to "good" people. If God had done as we so often do, He would have waited for us to "straighten up" or be good, THEN would have loved us! But God loved us while we were yet sinners. We, too, must love others even though their lives don't please God. Love is what draws us all to Christ and His saving power.

Christ's love is the standard by which we must measure our own love. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12. Christ's love is perfect and complete, always reaching out to those in need. He responded with compassion to people's heartaches and concerns while on earth, and does yet today. He expects us to likewise respond with love and compassion, to be controlled by His love in all we do. "For the love of Christ constraineth us." II Cor. 5:14a.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. We show forth our love for Christ by loving each other, by caring for each other. It is a sign of discipleship. When we truly love, the needs of people can touch our hearts, as our need touched Christ's heart. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. This is what Jesus did for us. It is the ultimate in self-sacrifice, for He gave all He had to give. Dare we give any less back to Jesus?

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Cor. 13:13. Love is so many things, but whatever it is, however you describe it, it is a step ahead of everything else. Whatever you have, whatever you are, it is meaningless without love. God is love, and He expects us to love. It is a sign of our Spiritual life. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." I John 3:14. Read I John 4:7-21, then look at your own heart, and decide what love is to you.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

I LOVE YOU

I love you, because you are loved of God. You are God's child. You are special to Him; therefore, you are special to me. I love you because we are ONE IN CHRIST! We are heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ! I love you, because we are striving together to be like Christ, our Supreme Example. I love you, not for what you look like, or for what kind of clothes you wear, or how you fix your hair, but because you are a CHILD OF GOD. I love you, because your heart is God's home. I love you, because we are trying to live a life that is pleasing to God, that one day we may be together in Heaven singing PRAISES to our great, loving, heavenly Father!

And because I love you, I do not want to hurt you by saying unkind words to you or about you to others. Because I love you, I pray for you and ask God to be ever near you.

I love you, brother; I love you, sister; because you are loved of God.

Love in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Julie Litfin
Quinter, Kansas

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"A God of MIRACLES"

(This article is especially dedicated to Bro. Ben Keeny who suffered an automobile accident in June and remains under God's and the doctors' care in Pennsylvania.)

The daughter of a Chicago millionaire was paralyzed. Her father paid twenty thousand dollars to get a famous doctor from Vienna to come to America to minister to the child. The operation was a success.

There was another poor family living in Chicago who had a fourteen year old boy who suffered from the same affliction as the rich man's daughter. The family was poor and couldn't afford a doctor or a wheelchair. When this little boy saw the doctor's picture in the paper, he said, "Mother, wouldn't it be wonderful if the doctor could make me walk?" The mother's heart broke as she said, "Honey, that rich man paid twenty thousand dollars for the doctor's service and we don't have a cent." "Well," said the boy, "a guy can wish, can't he, Mother?" The mother fled into another room to weep. Then it seemed that God was putting an idea into her mind. She went down to the hotel and knocked on the door of the doctor's suite. She sobbed out her story and the doctor asked, "Mam, do you

have any money?" "No," she answered. "Then I will operate on your son free of charge." One day eleven weeks after the operation, the mother came to the boy's room to visit and the boy said, "Mother, go and look out the window." As she looked outside, she felt a tug on her sleeve. She turned around, and there was her son... he had walked for the first time. They hugged and kissed and wept for joy. God had worked a miracle in what seemed to be a hopeless situation.

We serve a MIRACLE WORKING GOD. He is the God who loved me while I was yet a sinner... while I rebelled against His will... yet He never gave up on me. As a fourteen year old boy, I fought against the Spirit for two years before I submitted to His will.

The Lord paid a miracle price for my sin. He died in my place on the old rugged cross of Calvary.

In another miracle, He sent the Holy Spirit to point me in the right direction toward holiness. A part of the perfect Godhead dwells within me that I might understand my salvation and feel the constant presence of the Lord.

Then, He saved me... wrote my name down in the Lamb's book of life and gave me life eternal. What a miracle, salvation. It means that I no longer have to look forward to eternal punishment in hell. It means that I will spend an eternity in Heaven with the one who created me.

These things He has done for me in the past. But, what about my future? IT IS IN HIS HANDS.

By a miracle, He daily forgives my sins. When we are saved, we are not made perfect. We still have that old carnal nature. Satan still tempts us and we often fall into his net. And this hurts Jesus, but in His love He tells us, "If we will confess our sins, (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He awaits my confession... and offers complete forgiveness.

Bro. Ben has a favorite Psalm, and that is the twenty-third. And I think of the author of that Psalm as the one who was a "Man after God's own heart." But one day he committed a great sin. God sent Nathan to David to say, "Thou art the man, thou hast sinned." And David, deeply convicted, fell before God and cried out in repentance. The twenty-third Psalm expressed the joy of the miracle of forgiveness. It shows that He will put a new song in our heart when we are repentant.

It is by the miracle of God that I live day by day. We are in a difficult and problematic world. We can't go alone on our own strength. We need outside help, the help of each other and the special help that only God alone can give. Sometimes we think we can get along by ourselves, but when life presses in upon us, we can

only survive by reaching up for the nail-pierced hands of the Master. He alone can help us over the rugged ways of our pilgrimage here.

Through the miracle of prayer, I can talk to God. Do you doubt that God answers prayer? There should be no question in our minds at this point.

Through God's miracle, He will come back for me. He has promised in His word that He is preparing a perfect place and will come for me to be where He is. He may come in death. If the Lord tarries, I know that I will die. What does that mean for me as a Christian? It means only that my body will be placed in a grave but my soul will go to be with Jesus. "To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord." (II Cor. 5:8.) Then, when He comes, my body will be raised and join the spirit and my salvation will be complete. But Jesus may come in the air while I am still living. Then the Bible tells me of a miracle "catching up" to meet the Lord in the air. (I Thess. 4:17)

Miracles of miracles, I will be transformed to be like Him and He will keep me at His side forever. Oh, what a Saviour! There will be no more pain there, no sickness, no aging, no death! LET JESUS' MIRACLES TOUCH YOU TODAY. Let His transforming power be a reality in your life.

Brother Leonard Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1925

A RELIGIOUS CHALLENGE

J. F. Britton

"Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things I say?" Luke 6:26. As Jesus looks down through aisles or the avenues of time, and sees the great decline of Bible faith, and the deplorable collapse of fidelity, loyalty and spirituality in the church, with a burning challenge he says, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things I say?" This is equivalent to saying: "Why do ye pretend to be my disciples and confess me to be your Lord and Master, and King of Kings, and then ignore, disregard and refuse what I say?" The apostle James makes a similar challenge, saying "show me thy faith without thy works." James 2:18. This challenge calls for some tangible and logical evidence in support of faith in the absence of obedience to God's holy word. Elijah came unto all the people and said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him." I Kings 18:21.

My, that was a stupendous and imperative proposition or chal-

lenge Elijah made to those Baalites. (Read I Kings 18, 21 to 39)

Job quaked and trembled under the mighty challenge of Jehovah. "Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproveth God, let him answer it." Job 40:1-2. In verses 3 and 4 we have Job's answer. Job gets a vision and a realization of his insignificance and limitations. In verse 5 Job surrenders in a confession of his depravity and arrogance. And as Job's sad experience convinced him of his inability and inadequacy of debating and caviling with Jehovah, why should we assume to change the word of God? "Which is the law of God." And is the law of God, an adjustable machine that we can change to suit our philosophical fancies? King Saul was confronted with a profound and painful challenge by the prophet Samuel. When he heard the "bleating of the sheep, and the lowing of the oxen." and Samuel said: "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

"Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord he hath also rejected thee from being King." I Sam. 15:23. Although King Saul confessed his sins and pled with Samuel for mercy, that did not change the decrees of God.

The writer is wondering if some of our up to date scientific philosophical Ph.D's or modern wisacres and critics will assume to propound to Jehovah that the Spirit of the New Testament should be accepted and not the letter. Know ye not that the spirit and the letter are correlative and inseparable by Divine Wisdom?

And, "what therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:5. Again Jesus said "The words that I speak unto you they are life." John 6:63. Hence if we reject either the letter or the spirit we reject Christ.

Dear reader "be not deceived; God is not mocked." Gal. 6:7. Those all seeing eyes that "are a discerners of the thoughts and intents of the heart." "But all things are naked and opened to the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:12-13.

They are and know why you say Lord, Lord and then refuse to conform to His word and the rules and government of the church. When Jesus looked into the hearts and lives of those scribes and Pharisees and diagnosed the secrets and purposes of their hearts, He saw their hearts were contaminated with pride, arrogance and hypocrisy. No wonder Jesus said, "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you saying this people draweth nigh unto me with their

mouth, and honoreth me with their lips but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:7-9. It's only folly and preposterous to profess to be Christ's disciples and affiliate with the world in its frivolities, indecent and immodest fashions and immoralities.

"For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven." Matt. 5:20. Notice how Jesus stressed the "except your righteousness." This is a very serious and definite challenge, because it deals with our future weal or woe.

And again Jesus says, "not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21-23. There is certainly something radically wrong somewhere, with this great host of energetic and active workers. There is some reason why the Lord refuses to recognize their work and denounces them as workers of iniquity. We should take this solemn denunciation very seriously and earnestly to heart. Because it is well known that no infidel or wicked blasphemer, nor non professor, nor foul prostitute will ever make any claim that they ever engaged in the Lord's services. Hence it is reduced to a host of religious leaders and preachers who have assumed to set up a system of civic righteousness and social regeneration according to their own conceived ideas, ethics and religion. This discloses the trouble with those religious zealots. They ignore Godly ways and his righteousness "and are going about to establish their own righteousness and have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God." Rom. 10:3. In view of all these messages from God's holy Book the Church of the Brethren is confronted with a profound and solemn challenge which should inspire and awaken her to a realization of her sacred responsibility, and put on the "whole armour of God." That she be not found "wanting" when the great day of reckoning comes.



He that thinks little of sin has never thought much of God.



Satan fears prayer because God hears prayer.

WHEN A REVIVAL OF RELIGION IS NEEDED

Charles G. Finney

1. When there is a want of brotherly love and Christian confidence among professors of religion, then a revival is needed. Then there is a loud call for God to revive His work. When Christians have sunk down into a low and backslidden state, they neither have, nor can have, the same love and confidence toward each other, as when they are all alive, and active, and living holy lives. God loves all men with the love of benevolence, but He does not feel the love of complacency toward any but those who live holy. Christians love each other with the love of complacency, only in proportion to their holiness. If Christian love is the love of the image of Christ in His people, then it can be exercised only where that image really or apparently exists. A person must reflect the image of Christ, and show the spirit of Christ before other Christians can love him with the love of complacency. It is in vain to call on Christians to love one another with the love of complacency, as Christians, when they are sunk down in stupidity. They see nothing in each other to produce this love. It is next to impossible that they should feel otherwise toward each other than they do toward sinners. Merely knowing that they belong to the Church, or seeing them occasionally at the Communion table, will not produce Christian love, unless they see the image of Christ.

2. When there are dissensions, and jealousies, and evil speakings among professors of religion, then there is a great need of a revival. These things show that Christians have got far from God, and it is time to think earnestly of a revival. Religion cannot prosper with such things in the Church, and nothing can put an end to them like a revival.

3. When there is a worldly spirit in the Church. It is manifest that the Church has sunk down into a low and backslidden state, when you see Christians conform to the world in dress, equipage, and "parties," in seeking worldly amusements, and reading novels, and other books such as the world reads. It shows that they are far from God, and that there is a great need of a revival of religion.

4. When the Church finds its members falling into gross and scandalous sins, then it is time to awake and cry to God for a revival of religion. When such things are taking place as give the enemies of religion an occasion for reproach, it is time to ask of God: "What will become of Thy great Name?"

5. When there is a spirit of controversy in the Church or in the land, a revival is needful. The spirit of religion is not the spirit of

controversy. There can be no prosperity in religion where the spirit of controversy prevails.

6. When the wicked triumph over the Churches, and revile them, it is time to seek for a revival of religion.

7. When sinners are careless and stupid, it is time Christians should bestir themselves. It is as much their duty to awake as it is for the fireman to do so when a fire breaks out in the night in a great city. The Church ought to put out the fires of hell which are laying hold of the wicked. Sleep! Should the firemen sleep and let the whole city burn down, what would be thought of such firemen? And yet their guilt would not compare with the guilt of Christians who sleep while sinners around them are sinking stupidly into the fires of Hell.

Selected

THE CLOCK NOT STARTED

J. H. Moore

On the top of my office desk is a small nickel clock, which is wound every morning. Every Monday morning it is necessary to set the clock as well as wind it, for during Sunday it runs down. One Monday morning I wound the clock and set it as usual, and went on about my work. Some time later I glanced up at the clock and observed the hands were where I had placed them an hour or more before. Then I noticed that the clock was not running. It then occurred to me that while I had wound the clock and set it right, still I had failed to start it. To myself I said, "Just like some church members, — set right, made ready for a long run, but never started."

I got to thinking, and wondered whose fault it is that so many members are standing still. Some used to run well, but they stopped for some cause, and did not get started again. I have known some of them to appear before the church, and apparently be set right before the public as well as before the church, but for some cause they did not run; they could not be induced to keep time with the church and her work. Yes, they did, one time, run well. Some force hindered them, and now, in the spiritual life, there is no activity.

When I saw my clock was not running I took it down, gave it a good shake, set it right again and then it went on doing its duty. I do not mean to say that people who live and do nothing always need a shaking up, but they certainly need something more than a mere letting alone. They need to be started in the Lord's work, and it is one of the puzzling questions, sometimes, to know just how to start them. Jonah, on a certain occasion, had a little experience, down deep in the sea, that started him in the right direction, and he kept

going until he reached Nineveh, where the Lord had a special work awaiting him.

People are sometimes converted, as we call it. They come into the church, and so far as outward appearances are concerned, seem to be just right. But they do not run. By them the name of God is not glorified. They are just the same today that they were when they came into the church a year ago. There has been no progress, and no advancement in the Christian life. Judged by the standard of a babe in Christ Jesus, they may be all right, but they do not grow to manhood in the Lord's cause. They were apparently all right in the beginning, but they never got started. Some of them never got started to giving thanks at the table for their daily bread. They know nothing of the family altar, and cannot be depended upon to help forward the Lord's work. Surely, they are just like my clock; set all right, wound up, apparently ready for usefulness, but do not run. I verily believe that they need a shaking up.

I have known ministers to be fully prepared for active duty. All the necessary authority was given them; they were wisely instructed and then left to carry forward the Lord's work. But they did not move out, they did not preach. They never got started, and years later they were, so far as usefulness is concerned, just where the installation services left them, — set right, wound up with all necessary authority to preach the Word but not started.

Well, whose fault is it that all these people are not started? Is it their own fault, or is it the fault of someone else? A persecution at Jerusalem one time started a certain number of the brethren out into the world to preaching the Gospel. On a certain occasion the Macedonian call started Paul. But must all preachers be started in this way? Must something of this kind be depended upon to start into work the babes in Christ? Or may not the fault lie at the door of those whose duty it is to look after the flock? Some of us are very much disposed to have all the members accord with the Gospel in matters relating to the externals, but are we doing just the right thing by not attempting to find work for them? Must we spend all of our time and energies trying to get the church ready for work? Verily, whose fault is it that the clock has not been started?

- Selected from Our Saturday Night



Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.



If Christians praised God more the world would doubt Him less.

CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION

When we come up before the judgment seat, we can't use any ticket but our own, each must answer to the Lord. God will be the judge on that great day. No one can take your place, so dear ones, let Christ be your Captain. Here a soul is all alone. In John 12:48 we read, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." So let us follow Christ for His word is the same yesterday, today and forever. It will not pass away. We must be judged by the word, and it will stand. Jonah was a sign to Nineveh, so Christ is to us. We must fight the battle of faith if we hope to win salvation.

In the Old Testament we read where Moses said when the enemy was coming stand still and hold your peace. Today in our Church we must stand still and hear the voice of Jesus. We know we will receive victory if we only put our trust in the hands of the Captain of our Salvation. He is the only one. The Holy Spirit will lead us all the way. When we at times seem discouraged, Dear Ones, don't give up. He will carry us through. Moses gave unto you that living bread the hidden manna which was Spiritual Life. Not only a small supply but day by day, so God will give to us the things we need.

Dear Ones, if you are in bondage go to God who is able to supply every need whether great or small. Won't you put it into His hands? If your soul is longing for a better life get in touch with the Captain. He has so much to offer. Salvation is free for all who will accept it. So, dear ones, open the door of your heart and let Jesus, the Captain of your soul, in and start living for Him. The time is getting late, probably later than you think. Today is the day of salvation.

Sister E. M. Alltus



It is not what we take up but we give up that makes us rich.

NEWS ITEMS

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation will be having a Harvest Meeting, November 3, 1985, the Lord willing.

Brother Terry Gunderman, of Goshen, Indiana will be the speaker. We invite all to this day of worship and fellowship.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

"... Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only..." This is our daily goal. We invite all who can to join the Pleasant Home Congregation in upcoming special services.

Lovefeast Services are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 1985.

Each evening from November 17-24 Brother Dennis St. John of the Pleasant Ridge Congregation in Ohio will preach The Word. Please pray for revival in each heart.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

HART, MICHIGAN

Revival Meetings were held at Hart, Michigan July 21-28, 1985 by Bro. Bert Smith from the Goshen, Indiana Congregation. Lovefeast was enjoyed July 28 and 29 by all present.

A special thanks to all the brethren and sisters who came to worship with us.

Bro. James Noecker, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

We, here at Grandview enjoyed another revival meeting from September 8 through 15 with Bro. Robert Carpenter as our evangelist. His Spirit filled messages were enjoyed by all.

We were glad for the dear ones who came from a distance to enjoy the Lovefeast services with us. We were happy to have Sis. Carpenter and Marlin also with us.

May Bro. Carpenter go forth in the work of the Lord, proclaiming God's Wonderful Word.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to express my "THANKS" to everyone who sent me gifts, flowers, and cards, especially the prayers that were offered up in my every behalf when I had major surgery in New Jersey Hospital. We know God answered your prayers. We appreciated the visits from each one who visited me while recuperating at home. May God richly bless you.

Brother Carl Broadwater

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1985

November 3 - Two plans for Absalom - II Sam. 17:1-29.

1. Did David return good for evil toward the house of Saul?
2. Can we see the hand of God in accepting the advice of Hushai by Absalom?

November 10 - Absalom slain, David mourns - II Sam. 18:1-33.

1. Are numbers important when God is on our side?
2. What was David's reaction, when told of Absalom's death?

November 17 - David's Return - II Sam. 19:1-43.

1. Why did David not return at the head of his army after the victory?
2. What kind of spirit did David manifest toward those who had mistreated him?

November 24 - Thanksgiving - Neh. 12:27-47.

1. Why give thanks?
2. Who shall give thanks?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1985

November 3 - Watch Our Steps - Rom. 6:4-11; II Cor. 5:7; Gal. 5:16;
Eph. 4:1-1; John 1:6-10.

1. Why is it so important to watch our steps?
2. What is needed when walking in the dark and can't see where we are going?

November 10 - Which way are we looking - Matt. 7:13-14; Heb. 12:1-6.

1. In what direction should a child of God be looking? Luke 9:62.
2. What happened to Lot's wife, and what was the cause of her becoming a pillar of salt?

November 17 - Signs of the Times - Matt. 24:1-31.

1. What are some of the signs we as Christians should be looking for?
2. Are signs important in the life we live here on earth?

November 24 - Thanksgiving - Deut. 8:10; Psalms 100:4; Col. 1:12;
Col. 3:15; I Thess. 5:18.

1. What can be the result when God's people forget to thank Him? Rom. 1:21.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

NOVEMBER 1, 1985

NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HUMILITY

Lord, forever at thy side
Let my place and portion be;
Strip me of the robe of pride;
Clothe me with humility.

Meekly may my soul receive
All thy Spirit hath revealed;
Thou hast spoken; I believe,
Though the oracle be sealed.

Humble as a little child,
Weaned from the mother's breast,
By no subtle ties beguiled,
On thy faithful Word I rest.

Israel, now and evermore
In the Lord Jehovah trust;
Him in all his ways adore,
Wise, and powerful, and just.

WHAT GOD REQUIRES

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8.

We are all affected by various requirements of the government and our employers. Some requirements seem sensible but some seem to be only for harrassment. We are able to meet these requirements if we know what is demanded, but it is very difficult if they are hidden, unknown or very complicated.

Just as we have requirements in our natural lives so we have requirements in our Spiritual lives. If we are to please God we must meet His requirements. Either we will do as He requires or we will not enjoy His blessings. Many do not like to be told that they will suffer consequences if they do not do as they are told, but God is not influenced by men's opinions. We need to know what will bring us into God's favor and then do it.

Micah speaks of what God requires. In simple words he tells us what will gain for us the favor of God. These three requirements cover a lifetime of living. They are: "to do justly", "to love mercy" and "to walk humbly with thy God."

The first of these, "to do justly", may sound very simple but it involves the whole range of our activities. For us to do justly we must live righteously. Often the duty of righteous living is overlooked. There are many that speak of salvation but few that say much about living righteously.

Just living is living as those who have been justified by God. God's justice required a punishment for our sins, but His love has provided that penalty in Jesus Christ. As recipients of that love, we must live as those who would be like Him. This desire must

THE BIBLE MONITOR**NOVEMBER 1, 1985**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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permeate every avenue of our lives. We can not reserve certain areas in our lives merely for ourselves.

Salvation is a two sided proposition — God's side and our side. God has done His part, now He leaves for us the responsibility of accepting His Gift and living accordingly. There is a need throughout all Christendom for a more disciplined, Spiritual life within believers. Righteousness must touch every facet of our lives so they can be easily identified as Christian lives.

We have been the recipients of a great mercy, therefore we should greatly love it. The mercy of God is totally undeserved. We have deserved punishment for our sins but God paid the price for our sins through the giving of His Son. The vilest of sinners and the best of men, alike, must appeal to the mercy of God. The very best that a man can do in his own strength would never be good enough to appease God. We have sinned, greatly, therefore we have received a great mercy.

As recipients of this overwhelming mercy we should in relations with others also show the same kind of mercy. While we can never have mercy to the extent that God does, we can in our earthly ways imitate to others of the mercy we have ourselves received. This will cause us to overlook many faults and shortcomings in others. If God can be merciful to us, we can show it in our faint and feeble ways to others.

Walking with God requires humility. First we must realize our lack of anything that compels God to walk with us. We must walk with Him. Humility means we must get rid of our ideas of how we should walk with Him, instead we must walk as He would have us to.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. They must agree on the direction they are going, on the path they are to follow and on what they must do along the way. One of the travelers may have to give up his own ideas, so they may make progress. When we are walking with God, we must give up our ways and our ideas in favor of His. We must humble ourselves and agree to go when, where and how He would have us to go.

Walking with God implies that we are obedient to God. Through the Bible He has set the pathway before us and has given us the particular things He would have done. To reject or set aside what He has given us to do along the way is to break our walk with Him. Refusing His Word is to refuse to be humble before Him, therefore we are not meeting His requirements.

God has these three requirements which cover all avenues of our lives. These requirements must be met if we are to accomplish anything with Him. We must live righteously, we must have compassion

and we must walk obediently in His way. These three requirements are interrelated. It is for us to do them, not merely to talk or philosophize about them.

Micah has something to say to you. Listen, then apply it to your life so you may fulfill your duty toward God.

LOVE IS —

Part 2

Love is one of the most powerful forces known to man. There are alot of cheap imitations around, but that which is real, true love is a force which changes human hearts. Love can soften the heart of the meanest person you know, and make him or her pliable in God's hands. And the wonder of it all is that God, the source of love, has chosen us, His children, to take His message of love to others.

Love is what keeps us praying when it seems not to help. Love keeps us hoping when all looks hopeless. It is the motivation behind our faith, to keep us working and serving. Faith works by love (Gal. 5:6), and we are to serve one another by love (v. 13). Without love, we'd have no compassion, and without compassion, we'd sit idly by while people's hearts ache, while they hopelessly face overwhelming problems. Without love, we'd just pass by on the other side like the priest and the Levite did, rather than getting involved like the Samaritan did.

Love is what God is, and that's why love must be the dominant force in our lives. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." I John 4:8. When we know God, we are governed by love just as God is. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Gal. 5:14) is not there just to look at. It is a rule to live by, to love by. We do the best we can for ourselves, and we'd ought to do the same for others.

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13:10. Love is concerned for the welfare of others and is not interested in causing trouble, gossiping or otherwise harming another. The law was set up to govern personal relationships as well as worship, and when love was present, keeping the Law was no problem. When love is absent, selfishness takes over, and all sorts of problems result because people no longer care how their lives affect others.

"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins." Prov. 12:42. A person who hates others delights in stirring up trouble, trying to get even and so forth. One who loves knows sin is there, but tries to take care of the matter in a quiet, considerate way. Love does

not want to make bad matters worse, but desires peace. "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." Prov. 15:17. Love and peace are far more valuable than a lavish life full of hate and discord.

Love is truly peaceful. "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends." Prov. 17:9. This does not mean we are to hide or ignore sin, but neither should we spread a matter nationwide. Problems can often be resolved with little difficulty if handled locally in love. Telling everyone what's wrong with Bro. So-and-So leaves bad opinions, and brings more misunderstanding and division. Love tries to make the situation better instead.

Love is the Christian's foundation and without it, we'll never be what Christ wants us to be. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love." Eph. 3:17. Love keeps us stable in the Christian walk, and we can't do anything without thinking about what we are based on. Love doesn't allow us to jump from one thing to another because we are rooted in it. "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." I Thess. 1:3. We can't really work for the Lord unless we do it in love.

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it." Song of Sol. 7:7. Love is an unquenchable force, it is everlasting (Jer. 31:3), and is part of the Christian's armor (I Thess. 5:8). Simply stated, true Christian love is a protection and is indestructible. Without this love, we are open to all kinds of problems, in our relationships to both God and man. Faith and love together make up the breastplate, the part which covers our hearts. Without that vital protection, surely Satan would attack our very source of life.

Love is a preserving power, which we greatly need. Eternal life is promised to those who love God (James 1:12), and Psalms 145:20 says, "The Lord preserveth all them that love him." Love is our connection to God, and it is part of the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, and so forth (Gal. 5:22-23). There is not an area of our lives which love does not touch, if we permit God to have His way with us. II Tim. 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Fear renders us helpless, but love encourages us to keep trying, to keep serving in hope that good will come out of it all. God alone can give you this love; do you have it?

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Forgiveness"

Forgiveness is an absolute necessity if we are to live by Christ's standards and if we are going to keep Satan from having victory in our lives. It is basic to our position as Christians, both relative to Christ and other brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Two extremes might be considered here and some people seem to fall into both classifications. One is to ALWAYS forgive, never refusing to make reconciliation and the other is NEVER to forgive anyone... just to have the attitude that they should pay for their blunders! Probably, most people are somewhere in between these.

Forgiveness is hard from the human standpoint. When we have rejection or humiliation, when we are torn by suspicion and distrust, it hurts to totally and wholeheartedly give in through submission.

Forgiveness costs. It means accepting instead of demanding repayment for wrongs done. It means releasing the other person instead of exacting revenge. It means touching someone in love instead of relishing resentments.

So, in reality, what is forgiveness? First of all, let me explain what it isn't.

Forgiveness is not always forgetting. Our memory cannot be controlled at will. Many of the hurts we feel cut deeply and the scar might be deep. They are not easily forgettable. As we look to Jesus as our perfect example, however, we see Him removing sin from us and remembering it no more. That is the perfection of spirit for which we should strive.

Forgiveness is not pretending. Pretending to forgive and still harboring hate in your heart is a dishonest game of pretense. Just to put on a phony front and not reckon with the injury honestly is a form of dishonesty and the Word teaches us that no liar will even enter into heaven.

Then, of course, there is just ignoring it, thinking that the problem will go away. I would consider this a form of withdrawal from reality... a way of dodging the real issue between you and the other individual(s). It is not an acceptable way of handling this sin.

What is the right concept here, then, to properly forgive someone?

Legally, forgiveness takes place when an injured party drops charges, cancels his suit for damages and himself absorbs the loss incurred by the injurer.

When a person is wronged by another, either someone has to pay... which is "justice"... or else the first party accepts the injury done and sets the second party free. **THAT IS FORGIVENESS.**

Forgiveness is setting someone free and dealing with the problem with honest Christian responsibility. The injured person must acknowledge his angry feelings, bear the burden and find release through confession and prayer to set the other party free.

Stated in a practical way, forgiveness takes place when the person who is hurt, smeared, betrayed or cheated, accepts the loss and pays the cost of forgiving the other's wrongs, asking for NO repayment, seeking no revenge, holding no resentment.

Resentment sours the soul and only forgiveness can bring healing and reconciliation.

Forgiveness is essentially substitutional. It is vicarious. No man truly forgives his brother until he bears upon himself the hurt of the other's deed. God forgave us in Jesus because God, in Christ, paid the cost of forgiving men by bearing the total hurt of our sins upon Himself at Calvary.

Will you follow in Jesus' footsteps? He was unjustly assaulted and did not repay with insult. He was evilly abused and did not retaliate with threats. He trusted justice to the One who judges justly and accepted the cost of forgiving. He carried all of our sins with Him to His execution so we can be free through forgiveness. Calvary proves just how much forgiveness matters. In this greatest of human tragedies, Jesus paid the full cost for forgiveness.

Forgiveness takes REAL Christlike love. It includes being able to smile at your foe without insult or injury on the tip of your tongue. It is loving others more than self. It is lovingly being aware that both the forgiver and the forgiven need to support each other as Blood brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the deep recognition that we all need each other... and each other's forgiveness and acceptance. It is seventy times seven!

What makes forgiveness so hard for some that refuse to forgive? What makes them turn instead toward the twisted sickness of resentment, revenge and demand repayment? I believe that lack of self-understanding is one reason. Also, the inability to accept love is another. Finally, the ultimate reason is a unrepentant sin nature. If you are consumed by selfishness, it is dehumanizing and it is destroying you. It is isolating you and alienating you from God and the brotherhood of Christians. It will eventually cut you off from productive relationships with others.

Some people feel they can just "change churches" without making relationships right in a former church and still maintain a fellowship with Christ. If we study God's Word, we learn that we must go back and renew right relations with former church members or there is an ongoing barrier between us and God. That barrier

could lead to loss of eternal life.

Christians, we **MUST** have more thoughtful concern for each other. We must learn to accept others for what God has created them to be. We must have a broad compassion that reaches out in selfishness or we contradict the term we use to bind us together with Christ.

If we forgive we are Christian... if we do not forgive, we are **NOT**. Turn now to "OUR MOTTO" and "OUR AIM" on the front of this Bible Monitor. May they be profoundly instilled in our hearts. Amen.

Brother Leonard Wertz

SELF-EXAMINATION

Charles Finney

Self-examination consists in looking at your lives, in considering your actions, in calling up the past, and learning its true character. Look back over your past history. Take up your individual sins one by one, and look at them. I do not mean that you should just cast a glance at your past life, and see that it has been full of sins, and then go to God and make a sort of general confession, and ask for pardon. That is not the way. You must take them up one by one. It will be a good thing to take a pen and paper, and as you go over them, and write them down as they occur to you. Go over them as carefully as a merchant goes over his books; and as often as a sin comes before your memory, add it to the list. General confessions of sin will never do. Your sins were committed one by one; and as far as you can come at them, they ought to be reviewed and repented of one by one. Now begin, and take up first what are commonly, but improperly, called Sins of Omission.

1. Ingratitude. Take this sin for instance, and write down under that head all the instances you can remember wherein you have received favors from God for which you have never exercised gratitude. How many cases can you remember? Some remarkable providence, some wonderful turn of events, that saved you from ruin. Set down the instances of God's goodness to you when you were in sin, before your conversion, for which you have never been half thankful enough; and the numerous mercies you have received since. How long the catalogue of instances, where your ingratitude has been so black that you are forced to hide your face in confusion! Go on your knees and confess them one by one to God, and ask forgiveness. The very act of confession, by the laws of suggestion, will bring up others to your memory. Put them down. Go over them three or four times in this way, and see what an astonishing

number of mercies there are for which you have never thanked God.

2. Want of love to God. Think how grieved and alarmed you would be if you discovered any flagging of affection for you in your wife, husband, or children; if you saw another engrossing their hearts, and thoughts, and time. Perhaps in such a case you would wellnigh die with a just and virtuous jealousy. Now, God calls Himself a jealous God; and have you not given your heart to other loves and infinitely offended Him?

3. Neglect of the Bible. Put down the cases when for perhaps weeks, or longer, God's Word was not a pleasure. Some people, indeed, read over whole chapters in such a way that they could not tell what they had been reading. If so, no wonder that your life is spent at random, and that your religion is such a miserable failure.

4. Unbelief. Recall the instances in which you have virtually charged the God of truth with lying, by your unbelief of His express promises and declarations. God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him. Now, have you believed this? Have you expected Him to answer? Have you not virtually said in your hearts, when you prayed for the Holy Spirit: "I do not believe that I shall receive"? If you have not believed nor expected to receive the blessing which God has expressly promised, you have charged Him with lying.

5. Neglect of prayer. Think of the times when you have neglected secret prayer, family prayer, and prayer-meetings; or have prayed in such a way as more grievously to offend God than to have omitted it altogether.

6. Neglect of the means of grace. When you have suffered trifling excuses to prevent your attending meetings, have neglected and poured contempt upon the means of salvation, merely from disrelish of spiritual duties.

7. The manner in which you have performed those duties. That is, with want of feeling and want of faith, in a worldly frame of mind, so that your words were nothing but the mere chattering of a wretch who did not deserve that God should feel the least care for him. When you have fallen down upon your knees and "said your prayers" in such an unfeeling and careless manner that if you had been put under oath five minutes after you could not have said for what you had been praying.

8. Want of love for the souls of your fellow-men. Look around upon your friends and relatives, and remember how little compassion you have felt for them. You have stood by and seen them going right to hell, and it seems as though you did not care if they did go. How many days have there been, in which you did not make

their condition the subject of a single fervent prayer, or evince an ardent desire for their salvation?

9. Want to care for the heathen. Perhaps you have not cared enough for them to attempt to learn their condition; perhaps not even to take a missionary magazine. Look at this, and see how much you really care for the heathen, and set down honestly the real amount of your feelings for them, and your desire for their salvation. Measure your desire for their salvation by the self-denial you practice, in giving of your substance to send them the Gospel. Do you deny yourself even the hurtful superfluities of life, such as tea, coffee, and tobacco? Do you retrench your style of living, and scruple not to subject yourself to any inconvenience to save them? Do you daily pray for them in private? Are you laying by something to put into the treasury of the Lord when you go up to pray? If you are not doing these things, and if your soul is not agonized for the poor benighted heathen, why are you such a hypocrite as to pretend to be a Christian? Why, your profession is an insult to Jesus Christ!

10. Neglect of family duties. Think how you have lived before your family, how you have prayed, what an example you have set before them. What direct efforts do you habitually make for their spiritual good? What duty have you not neglected?

11. Neglect of social duties.

12. Neglect of watchfulness over your own life. In how many instances you have hurried over your private duties, and have never taken yourself to task, not honestly made up your accounts with God; how often have you entirely neglected to watch your conduct, and, having been off your guard, have sinned before the world, and before the Church, and before God!

13. Neglect to watch over your brethren. How often have you broken your covenant that you would watch over them in the Lord! How little do you know or care about the state of their souls! And yet you are under a solemn oath to watch over them. What have you done to make yourself acquainted with them? In how many of them have you interested yourself, to know their spiritual state? Go over the list, and wherever you find there has been a neglect, write it down. How many times have you seen your brethren growing cold in religion, and have not spoken to them about it? You have seen them beginning to neglect one duty after another, and did not reprove them, in a brotherly way. You have seen them falling into sin, and you let them go on. And yet you pretend to love them. What a hypocrite! Would you see your wife or child going into disgrace, or into the fire, and hold your peace? No,

you would not. What do you think of yourself, then, to pretend to love Christians, and to love Christ, while you can see them going into disgrace, and say nothing to them?

14. Neglect of self-denial. There are many professors who are willing to do almost anything in religion, that does not require self-denial. But when they are required to do anything that requires them to deny themselves — oh, that is too much! They think they are doing a great deal for God, and doing about as much as He ought in reason to ask, if they are only doing what they can do just as well as not; but they are not willing to deny themselves any comfort or convenience whatever for the sake of serving the Lord. They will not willingly suffer reproach for the name of Christ. Nor will they deny themselves the luxuries of life, to save a world from hell. So far are they from remembering that self-denial is a condition of discipleship that they do not know what self-denial is. They never have really denied themselves a ribbon or a pin for Christ and the Gospel. Oh, how soon such professors will be in hell! Some are giving of their abundance, and are giving much, and are ready to complain that others do not give more, when, in truth, they do not themselves give anything that they need, anything that they could enjoy if they kept it. They only give of their surplus wealth; and perhaps that poor woman who puts in her mite, has exercised more self-denial than they have in giving thousands.

- To be continued Selected

THE BIBLE

The Bible contains 5,566,480 letters, 733,746 words, 51,165 verses, 1,189 chapters and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm; shortest - the middle chapter, the 117th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th Psalm. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The word "and" occurs 46,227 times; the word Jehovah 6,855 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the second book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is the 9th of the 8th chapter of Esther; the shortest verse is the 55th of the 11th chapter of John. In the 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra is the alphabet. The finest piece of reading is the 26th chapter of Acts. The name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. The Bible contains two testaments. The old is the Law, the new is Love. The old is the Bud, the new is the Bloom. In the Old, man is reaching up for God. In the New, God is reaching down for man. In the Old, man is in the valley but can see the sun shining on the mountain tops. In the New he is on the mountain top basking in the sunlight of God's Infinite love.

Selected by Sister Julia Benenati

IMPRESSIONS

I feel, Stephen's death made a great impression on Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul. He stood by and consented to Stephen's death. Later he spoke of Stephen's death in his ministry. Even in death he reflected the presence of Christ. God always has a way of furthering His work.

When people wanted to honor Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Barnabas knew that to be true to God, they must recognize themselves as just men. They did not want any praise; they were working for the Master. Today, it is necessary to give the whole Gospel to the world, not a diluted message. When Paul traveled to Ephesus, he was to do away with idol gods.

I wonder how we as a Church would hold up under persecution? Would we rejoice that we were able to suffer for Christ? I think we, as a Church, can find inspiration for being able to hold Christ up before the world. Paul and Barnabas both were given the title "Apostle."

In Acts 4:36-37 it tells that Barnabas not only stood by the disciples but gave them a large sum of money. I have heard it said that encouragement is more than pleasant words, it is giving of ourselves and our substance in practical ways. Saul at one time was not trusted but in Acts 9:26-27 Barnabas believed in Saul and took him to the Apostles and vouched for him. Saul was to become Paul. The Apostle needed a trusting friend and he found it in Barnabas.

I am sure today we can find many who need a friend, they can trust. So many today need a few words of encouragement. Let us try to help those who need help. Barnabas was a team worker, always giving help where he was needed.

In Hebrews we read we are to encourage each other. Jesus came to make it possible for us to keep His commandments and be able to fulfill the purpose for our being here. If we are running the race Christ has set for us and expect to win, we must take Him as our Lord and Saviour. Let us run in such a way as to win the prize. I Cor. 9:24. Each of us are running for our life, whether we realize it or not. Let Jesus set us on the way and keep us steady on the course. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

Sister E. M. Alltus



How often we look upon God as our last and feeblest resource! We go to him because we have nowhere else to go. And then we learn that the storms of life have driven us, not upon the rocks, but into the desired haven. — Geo. Macdonald.

DENY CHRIST

Now Peter said, "I'll not deny
You, blessed Lord, for You I'll die.;;
Christ said, "Before the cock crows twice
Thou shalt deny you know me thrice."

For Christ knew all things beforehand,
What he would say to that small band.
Peter, later, sat afar off -
When recognized, to them he scoffed...

Denied he knew his Lord and King...
The cock crowed twice - sorrow 'tid bring,
Christ looked at him, he realized --
He had denied his Lord and Christ.

He went outside -- bitterly wept,
He remembered his words NOT KEPT...
But he repented, and stronger grew,
Then preached Christ's words so pure, so true.

Now, if you think your faith is strong,
Do by careful, you could be wrong,
For Satan knows where you are weak ---
When you're tempted, quickly Christ seek!

He gives you strength to overcome -
Our advocate forgives each one
That does repent, then pushes on --
For this short life will soon be gone.

Like Peter, may we better be
From what happens to you and me...
Press on until we reach that goal
Christ has prepared for each true soul...

If we obey His precepts given
We can meet Him in Glorious Heav'n,
But if we fall, and don't repent, -
From that bright Home we'll be absent.

- Irene Stout



In a cemetery, a little white stone marked the grave of a dear little girl, and on the stone were cut these words: "A child of whom her playmates said: 'It was easier to be good when she was with us.'" Lord Peterborough, in speaking about Fenelon, said, "I was forced to get away from him, else he would have made me pious."

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1925

"LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY"

D. F. Lepley

Do you remember what the poet said about us, poor, self-filled mortals? "O how we grovel here below, fond of these trifling toys".

How, because of our carnal natures, we grovel — yes, actually wallow through the dirty mires of worldly ambitions and pleasures, until our lives become as empty as a vacuum.

Do you catch the meaning brethren? A vacuum may be full of dirt and dead things, but nothing useful can live in it.

O what a disappointment an empty life is to God, when he wants it to be filled with good.

Jesus had just been explaining to his hearers that only a thief or a robber tries to get into the "fold" some other way than by the "door" (unseen), because he wants to catch the sheep and carry them away, but that he (Jesus) is the Good Shepherd and has come that the sheep (his followers) "might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" yes, more plentifully — in fullest measure.

What a joy it is to the "husbandman" when he sees that the precious vines and trees, that cost him so much substance, and patient, self-sacrificing care and labor, just responding wholeheartedly, as it were, with an abundant crop of the most lucious fruit.

God is the husbandman. We are his vines and trees.

Now, won't you just sit down quietly and indulge in a real heart-searching think for a little while? I know it will do you good.

Then, when you have decided how God feels about your life, just get busy and try to put all your good thoughts into action, by first letting God just literally empty your heart out entirely of self, so that there won't be any self in your life any more, and then let him fill your heart and life brim full of his spirit (yes, but you must surrender yourself first).

Then, I am sure that your life will prove Christ's words "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Filled with love and obedience to God. Love for your brethren, and love for your enemies and for sinners.

Filled with joy unspeakable, and that "peace which the world cannot give."

Filled with grace and courage to bear the burdens, cares and disappointments of life with a joyful and cheerful spirit.

Filled with the happy assurance that death will call you to Heaven and Eternal happiness.

O yes, filled abundantly with life and love, the essence of God.

Dear brother, dear sister, can you be satisfied with anything less than this?

OBITUARY

EDITH SILKNITTER

Sister Edith (Greenho) Silknitter was born October 14, 1900 in Lake Township, Stark County, Ohio. She departed this life October 19, 1985, at the Church of the Brethren Home, Greenville, Ohio being 85 years and 4 days of age.

December 21, 1922 she was united in marriage to Otis Silknitter, who preceded her in death, January 1, 1975. To this union were born three children, a son Carl, who resides at Union, Ohio and a son and daughter who died at birth.

She, with her husband were members of the Orion Dunkard Brethren Church, North Canton, Ohio. He served as a faithful deacon many years.

Sister Silknitter resided in Uniontown, Ohio for over fifty years, having to give up her home after sickness befell her.

She is survive by her son Carl, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one sister, Beulah Obermiller, of North Canton, Ohio.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Paul R. Myers at Hecker Funeral Home, Uniontown, Ohio with burial at the Greensburg, Ohio Cemetery.

Elder Paul R. Myers

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Laverne Keeney is 260 Yummerdoll Road, Lititz, Pennsylvania 17543.

THANK YOU

To everyone who remembered me while I was hospitalized, your special thoughtfulness meant so much!

Thank you for the flowers and cards, but most of all your prayers.

I am so much better and feel your prayers has made it so.

Sister Pat Johnson

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

NOVEMBER 15, 1985

NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WE THANK THEE, O GOD

We thank Thee, O God, for the gifts Thou hast giv'n,
The blessings Thy love hath bestowed;
Thy goodness and mercy our tongues will recite,
And publish Thy praises abroad.

We thank Thee, O God, for all things Thou hast made
Our senses, our souls to delight;
The beauties and glories that greet us by day,
The wonders and splendors of night.

We thank Thee for life, that mysterious gift,
How strange, how elusive, how sweet!
For being created and quickened by Thee,
With powers so wondrous replete.

We thank Thee for love, that most wonderful gift,
For friendships and fellowships deat;
For all the enjoyment and pleasures they yield,
For home with its gladness and cheer.

We thank Thee for Him, — "Thy unspeakable gift."
Without whom all others were vain;
For Jesus, our Light, our Salvation, our All,
Our Hope till His coming again.

- T. O. Chisholm

NOTHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Very often we are prone to think that we have nothing to be thankful for. Our lives are uneventful. We are common people with neither great troubles nor fantastic possessions. We are apt to think that in the absence of any great need or any great blessing that we do not have much to give thanks for. We think of the immediate things around us, we are thankful for them, but that doesn't seem like much.

If we were to trade places with various other people in this world we might soon learn that we have a great deal to be thankful for. Let us suppose that we must trade what we have for what others have or don't have. Then we may see whether we are now well favored or not. Could wearing another's shoes or bearing another's problems cause us to be thankful for what we have now?

Just suppose for a moment where or how you might be situated. After feeling your new circumstances, think of how it is with you right now. Now, how thankful are you?

Suppose that you have been afflicted with a chronic affliction of one of the senses. To be blind or deaf or mute or even losing the sense of smell can be a great hardship. Even those who most highly train themselves would gladly give up their training in order to be rid of their affliction. Bodies that are normal are worthy of our thanksgiving. Even though our sight, speech or hearing may not be perfect, we still have a lot to be thankful for.

Suppose again that you are confined to a sickroom. Perhaps your entire day is spent in bed. You can hardly move from side to side. It takes two people to move you around. The days are long and the nights are longer. There is pain but the inactivity seems almost worse and this is what they must look forward to every day

THE BIBLE MONITOR

NOVEMBER 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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of their lives. We do not value our health as we should until it is taken from us. We should be thankful for the health we have. Even if we are not in total fitness we still can be thankful that we are in so much better shape than many.

Suppose that the job, position, or even your own business were to be taken from you. Suddenly all that you had secured through your own labor was taken from you. Eventually you could find yourself in need. The prodigal son had enough to live on, even riotously, for awhile but the inheritance did run out. Possessions would be sold off or bartered for other needs. Then would come the time when nothing was left. Where would the next meal, warm clothes, dry bed or other necessary things come from? Although we do not always have all that we want or even think that we need, still what we have is worth our thankfulness. We may want more but first we must realize that we already have more than some people in this country and more than most people in other parts of the world.

Suppose that you have become isolated from your Church. Because of your work, your health, your family's needs or by some other situation in your life you can no longer attend the services of your Church. You must live amongst those who know nothing of your beliefs or practices. You have to be very careful lest you lose your Biblical basis in your life. This possibility should make us each thankful for our local fellowship as well as for our Brotherhood connections. We should be thankful for those of like precious faith who are close to us.

Suppose that you are a Christian in a heathen, foreign land. You do not have the freedoms and privileges that are taken for granted in our own land. There you are persecuted for your beliefs and practices. You may be imprisoned or tortured for merely being a Christian. How thankful we should be that we have the freedoms that we do have here. Although some governmental agencies and some court decisions may distress us, we still have many privileges that are unknown in all but a few countries.

Suppose that you are a heathen living in a heathen land or even in this land. It does not matter where you live, if you are not a Christian you are outside God's family. To be outside His family is to cut oneself off from the greatest of all privileges. To not know the love of God as shown through Jesus Christ is to deny oneself the best that is available. One is shutting himself off from not only an abundant Spiritual life in this life but also from Heaven. We must be thankful for God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. If we have nothing else to be thankful for, we must be thankful that we can be Christians in this life, preparing for a home in Heaven.

In this Thanksgiving season, do you have nothing to be thankful for?

WITH THANKSGIVING

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psa. 100:4.

When you think of thanksgiving, what comes to your mind? The Pilgrims and the Indians? The food they shared? This is about all some people think of, but God has something better in mind. So should we, as true thanksgiving is not just a sentimental celebration or a one-day gathering with our families. It cannot be expressed in a prayerful moment before a rich feast, no matter how thankful we are in our hearts. True thanksgiving is a way of life, not just an attitude.

Whatever we do, wherever we go, it should be with thanksgiving. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20. Our thankfulness cannot be limited to one day or one mealtime; it needs to be continuous. God has given us so much to be thankful for, so much that we don't deserve. We can say "thank you", but words alone aren't enough. God expects us also to live a thankful life, to show that we really appreciate what He has done for us.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. Basically this means "Don't worry or be anxious, but pray, and be thankful." Prayer and thankfulness go together, and both are important in the Christian walk. Having a thankful heart helps us to focus our attention on the problem-solver, God, rather than on life's problems. Thankfulness for what God has already done reminds us that He is able to take care of us, and that we should not fret and worry. When we are worrying, we aren't trusting, and when we aren't trusting, we aren't pleasing God.

What is there to be thankful for, besides all our natural blessings? First and foremost is Christ. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15. There is no point in trying to thank God for anything until we've thanked Him for Jesus. Being thankful for Jesus requires that we recognize our need of Him and accept His saving grace. It requires our obedience and a life showing appreciation of our Lord. There's no true thanksgiving otherwise. As someone said, "Thanksgiving is thanks-living!"

The Apostle Paul thanked God for many things. He was thankful that others had received the grace of God (I Cor. 1:4). He was thankful for his fellow Christians (Phil. 1:13), and for their growth in faith and love (I Thess. 1:3). He was thankful, too, that the faith of some was well-known. "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." Rom. 1:8. Their faith was outstanding, and if we could have been

there, I'm sure we'd have seen a very grateful spirit also.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Col. 3:15. Peacefulness and thanksgiving go together. If we're thankful, we're content, and if we're content, we'll be peaceful. We'll be trusting and hopeful, not agitated and restless. God's peace should rule our hearts and when it does, our actions and attitudes will show it.

"But thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 15:57. Victory over what? Sin and death, that's what! Without Jesus, sin reigns in us, and we are condemned before God. Through Christ, we can receive salvation and the strength to overcome sin. Our physical bodies will die, but through Christ, we receive Eternal Life. Whatever else we are thankful for, we must first be thankful for Jesus and the victory He gives. Therein is true thanksgiving, the kind God can bless.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE MANY BLESSINGS

Today we are blessed with many things in this life that our foreparents did not have. Many things we have make life easier and more comfortable. Do we appreciate them?

It should be our desire and pleasure to do that which is according to His holy and divine will.

Our faithful foreparents, after a season of suffering and severe hardship, were blessed with a bountiful harvest. They set aside a day and proclaimed it special for thanksgiving. Also, we must keep in mind to be thankful always for all the blessings God is giving to us. We have many things to be thankful for. We are living in a country that is abundantly blessed with the many temporal things in life. Stir up your minds in the way of remembrance. We need to promote and uphold the works of righteousness as commanded in the saving Gospel of Christ.

We need more than man-made theories of religion. Satan is out to deceive and if it were possible he would deceive the very elect. We are not to take from God's Word or add to it. We show our thankfulness by being obedient to the saving Gospel of Christ. Do good unto all men especially unto the household of faith.

Are we always thankful for all the blessings of God? Do we show our appreciation for them all? Are we thankful there are ministers throwing out the Gospel warnings against the wicked things of this world?

We need to put on the whole armor of God to stand against the wiles of the devil. When we are truly converted from sin we appreci-

ate all works of righteousness. Does our life show to others deeds of kindness and works of love? Thank and praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below, praise father son and holy ghost.

Today many have become vain in their imaginations and their foolish hearts are darkened. Let us take the saving Gospel of Christ as our guide and not man made theories in religion. In the days of Noah the thoughts and imaginations of their hearts were evil continually so shall it be at the second coming of Christ. Many prophecies are coming to fulfillment. The time is near the second coming of Christ. Are we ready and prepared for the first and best resurrection? There will be a great separation. Some will not enter the pearly gates into the Eternal City of God. Will we be among those who hear the voice, "Enter now the joys of thy Lord, thou has been faithful over a few things I will make you ruler over many things." We must be faithful and true to the trust he left us. We can be thankful for all the blessings of God.

Bro. J. F. Marks

R. 9 Box 860

Plant City, FL 33566

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Religion vs. Christianity

Many people are questioning religion today and there are some valid causes for it. We see that to our grandparents, it seemed to be a reality. To our parents, it became tradition. To us, it has become a nuisance... something that hardly seems relevant in our technological society. When our faith becomes only a religion and not a total way of life, it dies! When we have possessed it... and then neglected it... we eventually reject it!

Interestingly enough, when people reject the "religion" based on the truths of Jesus Christ, it doesn't mean they have rejected religion. It mostly means they have found another. Man is and has always been inescapably and incurably religious. If we look back into history, we find it demonstrates how difficult it is for anyone to remain "nonreligious" for very long. When they reject religious truth, they look around again to fill that vacuum. Usually the carnal and sensual man begins to fill his life with "free-thrillism" and religions that supposedly allow a person to be "free" from what they have seen as a religion of rules and rigorous legalism. Charismatic movements prey on these kinds of people as they look for a way of escapism. They join the ranks of "do-it-yourselfers" who feel that they have a right to set their own beliefs and rules according to how they view their relationship with God.

One thing I have found is that religion can be taught from one generation to the next but faith can not. Faith is caught from a right understanding and relationship with God. Parents who are strong in their faith transmit that faith not as a body of facts to be learned, but as a contagion of love for God, which children absorb both consciously and unconsciously. They, for instance, actually see the Father in their father if he is living a Christ like life. They see a mother who has a life reflecting love, grace, forgiveness and righteousness and they come to know God in and through her. Faith and religion are totally different!

In reality, religion is man's self-constructed views and values. Faith is a loving openness to God. Religion is centered in a man: his own feelings, his own goodness, his own success and his own piety. Faith is centered openly and absolutely on God. As we continue to look at the differences in religion and faith, we would note the following: Religion is individualistic. The religious man is preoccupied with himself and forgets his neighbor. He may be pious but his religion revolves around his own selfishness. Faith is love of God, love of neighbors, love for the church.

Religion is "manageable." It is confined to one nice little area of your life... usually an insignificant one. Faith commands all of your life. It says God is Lord of your emotions, your mental, moral, social and political being.

Religion is calling on God "as needed." Faith lets God be God at the center of your life. He is allowed to control, direct, correct, and strengthen you as you are radically obedient to Him.

Faith is a positive matter. It is something you believe, something that you possess and hold on to deliberately, honestly and decisively. Religion only holds you helplessly in its grip and becomes master of your emotions and reactions.

Faith is an exercise of willed belief. It is personal, an experience in trust. It is voluntary and comes from free choice. Faith is a positive confession of truth that you know and trust. Faith is a willful pledge of the heart and soul to all that it knows to be true and eternal. Again, we contrast faith to religion... religion being prejudiced, defensive, and being allowed to be pushed into a pigeon-hole of modern day Christianity. It is easy to settle for religion without practicing the orthodox doctrines of God's Word.

It is too common today for Christians to sing the praises of the Bible and yet never show that it has a true grip on their lives. No amount of defense for the Bible will convince others you are a true Christian without practicing its teachings to the fullest. Faith, like food, has to be made fragrant in aroma and rich to the taste and it has to be tasted daily. What if you went into a restaurant and told

the waiter, "Never mind the dinner, I'll just feast my eyes on the menu." Could you be satisfied? Would your hunger be relieved in just dreaming of the good food listed there? This is like living in the fantasy world of the religious and non-faithful. Leave this menu. Go with the meal! There is nothing which can be substituted. There is no alternative way of knowing Christ. Live by Faith in Christ... as a CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN, in a religious world.

Brother Leonard Wertz

LET US PRAY

Are you angry with a brother for a deed that he has done?
Has fellowship been broken so you no longer feel as one?
Does loving seem so hard, forgiveness seem almost unreal?
Are you struggling to be truthful about the way you feel?

Let us pray for one another, let us pray.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to lead the way.

Oh, we can criticize another when they don't think our way,
But if you truly seek to help him — Let us pray.

Does a brother seem too worldly in his dress and song?
Does conviction tell you that he is surely doing wrong?
If you really love him, let me suggest what to do.
Get on your knees and pray for him — and for you.

Jesus' prayer was that His desire is that we be one.
We are joined together by forgiveness through the Son.
True love is a desire for Christians to see the light,
When the Holy Spirit reveals to us things that are right.

Let us read God's Holy Word with an open heart and mind.
Let the Holy Spirit lead us into truths we can find.
Then let us share in love what God reveals as we seek.
Being careful to lift up in love a brother who may be weak.

NOTE: God never reveals anything to an individual that is contrary to His Holy Word. We must test the spirits.

I Thessalonians 4:9 "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you; for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

I Thessalonians 5:14 "Now we exhort you brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SELF—EXAMINATION

Charles Finney

Continued from November 1, 1985 Issue

From these we now turn to Sins of Commission.

1. Worldly mindedness. What has been the state of your heart in regard to your worldly possessions? Have you looked at them as really yours — as if you had a right to dispose of them as your own, according to your own will? If you have, write that down. If you have loved property, and sought after it for its own sake, or to gratify lust or ambition, or a worldly spirit, or to lay it up for your families, you have sinned, and must repent.

2. Pride. Recollect all the instances you can, in which you have detected yourself in the exercise of pride. Vanity is a particular form of pride. How many times have you detected yourself in consulting vanity about your dress and appearance? How many times have you thought more, and taken more pains, and spent more time about decorating your body to go to Church, than you have about preparing your mind for the worship of God? You have gone caring more as to how you appear outwardly in the sight of mortal man, than how your soul appeared in the sight of the heart-searching God. You have, in fact, set up yourself to be worshipped by them, rather than prepared to worship God yourself. You sought to divide the worship of God's house, to draw off the attention of God's people to look at your pretty appearance. It is in vain to pretend now, that you do not care anything about having people look at you. Be honest about it. Would you take all this pains about your looks if every person were blind?

3. Envy. Look at the cases in which you were envious of those whom you thought were above you in any respect. Or perhaps you have envied those who have been more talented or more useful than yourself. Have you not so envied some, that you have been pained to hear them praised? It has been more agreeable to you to dwell upon their faults than upon their virtues, upon their failures than upon their success. Be honest with yourself; and, if you have harbored this spirit of hell, repent deeply before God, or He will never forgive you.

4. Censoriousness. Instances in which you have had a bitter spirit, and spoken of Christians in a manner devoid of charity and love; of charity, which requires you always to hope the best the case will admit, and to put the best construction upon any ambiguous conduct.

5. Slander. The times you have spoken behind people's backs of the faults, real or supposed, of members of the Church or others, unnecessarily, or without good reason. This is slander. You need

not lie to be guilty of slander: to tell the truth with the design to injure is to slander.

6. **Levity.** How often have you trifled before God as you would not have dared to trifle in the presence of an earthly sovereign? You have either been an atheist, and forgotten that there was a God, or have had less respect for Him, and His presence, than you would have had for an earthly judge.

7. **Lying.** Understand now what lying is? Any species of designed deception. If the deception be not designed, it is not lying. But if you design to make an impression contrary to the naked truth, you lie. Put down all those cases you can recollect. Do not call them by any soft name. God calls them LIES, and charges you with LYING, and you had better charge yourself correctly. How innumerable are the falsehoods perpetrated every day in business, and in social intercourse, by words, and looks, and actions, designed to make an impression on others, for selfish reasons that is contrary to the truth!

8. **Cheating.** Set down all the cases in which you have dealt with an individual, and done to him that which you would not like to have done to you. That is cheating. God has laid down a rule in the case: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." That is the rule. And if you have not done so you are a cheat. Mind, the rule is not that you should do "what you might reasonably expect them to do to you": for that is a rule which would admit of every degree of wickedness. But it is "As ye WOULD they should do to you."

9. **Hypocrisy.** For instance, in your prayers and confessions to God. Set down the instances in which you have prayed for things you did not really want. And the evidence is, that when you have done praying, you could not tell for what you had prayed. How many times have you confessed sins that you did not mean to break off, and when you had no solemn purpose not to repeat them? Yes, have confessed sins when you knew you as much expected to go and repeat them, as you expected to live.

10. **Robbing God.** Think of the instances in which you have misspent your time, squandering the hours which God gave you to serve Him and save souls, in vain amusements or foolish conversation, in reading novels or doing nothing; cases where you have misapplied your talents and powers of mind; where you have squandered money on your lusts, or spent it for things which you did not need, and which did not contribute to your health, comfort, or usefulness. Perhaps some of you have laid out God's money for tobacco. I will not speak of intoxicating drink, for I presume there is no professor of religion here that would drink it, and I hope there is not one that uses that filthy poison, tobacco. Think of a professor of religion using God's money to poison himself with

tobacco!

11. Bad temper. Perhaps you have abused your wife, or your children, or your family, or servants, or neighbors. Write it all down.

12. Hindering others from being useful. Perhaps you have weakened their influence by insinuations against them. You have not only robbed God of your own talents, but tied the hands of somebody else. What a wicked servant is he who not only loiters himself but hinders the rest! This is done sometimes by taking their time needlessly; sometimes by destroying Christian confidence in them. Thus you have played into the hands of Satan, and not only showed yourself an idle vagabond, but prevented others from working.

If you find you have committed a fault against an individual, and that individual is within your reach, go and confess it immediately, and get that out of the way. If the individual you have injured is too far off for you to go and see him, sit down and write him a letter and confess the injury. If you have defrauded anybody, send the money, the full amount and the interest.

- Selected

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1925

THE MAIN THING

Leander Smith

We are giving too much time and attention to evolution. Evolution will not hurt religion or its progress any more than the great agnostic period represented by Bob Ingersoll hurt. Serious opposition rarely hurts a religious cause — it generally adds fuel to the flame. Passiveness and idle acceptance of religion is more damaging than opposition.

What we need most is to preserve the Spiritual life of our churches. We need more writing and teaching along this line. If we succeed in preserving the spiritual life of our churches we will have but little trouble with the evolutionists. It has become trite to say that unless the moral standard of our nation is raised the nation is doomed. We may well add that the only way to save the moral standard of the nation is for our churches and our Christian people to set a different standard for their lives from that on which the world outside the church lives. The Christian will not live a spiritual life if he lives all the time in an atmosphere of worldly amusements and pursuits. There are those who say that the cure for worldliness in the church is to make the atmosphere of the church spiritual. But this is an impossibility if large numbers of our churches are surfeited with worldliness. The only way to create a spiritual atmosphere is first

to eradicate sin. The line of separation between the church and the world ought to be made clearer and plainer. It ought to be made clear that those who love the world and the pleasures of the world more than they love Jesus Christ and His service should live out in the world and not impede the cause of Jesus Christ by worldly, godless living in the church. Certainly those who feed on worldly pleasures should be kept out of places of responsibility in our churches. The church that stands against worldliness and for clean Christian living will be the church of power. And though it may not be counted broad and liberal in the fickle minds of some people, yet it will have the respect of a lost world and will, when troubles come and sin oppresses, be the heaven of refuge for sin-weary souls.

I raise the question, how are we to rid our churches of worldliness? Every observer knows that practically all our churches are growing more and more worldly. Not long since I heard a great minister in one of our city churches denounce the common sins of the lay in which so many church members engaged. He denounced them in no uncertain sound. While he was delivering the great message, one of the leading ladies of the church who was sitting close to me was heard to say, "Rave on, brother, it will do you no good." Worldliness goes straight ahead wrecking the spiritual life of the church and the poor minister is powerless. His church will not enforce discipline. And this condition exists to some extent in all our churches.

I have three things to suggest as a remedy for this condition, I know that they will work, for they are Scriptural.

First, we should be more careful in receiving members. It is quality and not quantity that we need. We cannot have too many of the right kind, but ten who really know the Lord will accomplish a great deal more than that same ten could accomplish with ten others as members who know not God in the pardon of their sins. We need a John the Baptist to say, "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

Second, we need a board of deacons and officials who will hold up the ministers hands. So long as we place men on the official staff of the churches who are worldly in their living and disloyal to the church we need not expect spirituality in the membership to increase. God save the churches from worldly-minded deacons and officials.

Third, we need ministers who are loyal and fearless, who will stand for the principles of Christ and the church, who will insist and demand that the church exercise Spiritual discipline. Ministers who love the Lord more than they love their jobs and the salary they draw, ministers who have real backbone, such ministers will go a long way toward eliminating worldliness from our churches.

I think that it is time for our ministers and especially our elders to look after the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers, for we all realize that greivous wolves are entering into

many of the churches and destroying the flock.

When our churches heed the voice of the Apostle Paul and withdraw from those who walk disorderly, then and not until then will we preserve the spiritual life of our churches. May God help all our ministers and elders to be true to the trust he has left us.

“SAFE OR SORRY?”

I'd rather be "safe than sorry,"
 I would rather obey God's Word,
 For I read that it is sharper
 Than any two-edged sword...
 Dividing the soul and spirit -
 And even the joints and marrow,
 He discerns what is in my heart --
 And His way is strait and narrow.
 The Word He gave never changes,
 It's the same, now and forever...
 As it was when Christ walked on earth
 No person can His Word sever.
 When He tells me to do something -
 And even sets the example,
 Then there's no one that has the right
 To put His Word down to trample.
 For they're either taking away -
 Or else they're adding to God's Word -
 And I'm clearly told to follow
 The holy way of my Shepherd.
 Many would like to live so they
 Don't have to deny "self" a thing...
 Yet, if I want a Home in Heav'n
 I'll follow Christ - unwavering.
 NOW is the time that we must serve -
 Don't dare to wait 'till tomorrow,
 My Lord may come soon for His saints,
 And if you're left, you'll have sorrow.

- Irene Stout



You may depend upon it, religion is, in its essence, the most gentlemanly thing in the world. It will, alone, gentlize, if unmixed with cant; and I know nothing else, which alone, will. — Coleridge

OBITUARY

TED AND EVELYN SNYDER

Bro. Herbert F. Snyder, age 85; and Sis. Evelyn D. Snyder, age 71, were both killed instantly in a car accident on Sunday, October 6, 1985 on their way to church. Ted was born August 9, 1900; and Evelyn was born March 8, 1914.

Ted was baptized on May 6, 1934. Evelyn was baptized on July 31, 1927. They belonged to the Bethel Congregation at Frystown, Pennsylvania.

They were united in marriage on June 21, 1934. One baby girl preceded them in death in 1949. Surviving are one son, Jack Snyder, Stevens, Pennsylvania; and four daughters: June Cass, Bethel, Pennsylvania; Renee Wampler, Bethel, Pennsylvania; Susan Alspaugh, Bernville, Pennsylvania; and Kathleen Burkholder, Manheim, Pennsylvania. There are seventeen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Ted is also survived by one brother, Ray Snyder, Reno, Nevada. Evelyn is also survived by two brothers, George Berkenstock, Reinholds, Pennsylvania and Russel Berkenstock, Leesport, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were held at the Dunkard Brethren Church at Frystown, Pennsylvania on October 10, 1985. Brother David Kegerreis, Elder Allen Eberly and Elder Laverne Keeney were in charge of the service. Burial was at Bern Church Cemetery, Bern Township, Pennsylvania.

Brother Ted and Sister Evy were known and loved by many. Due to their many trips across the country, they had friends clear across the brotherhood.

Brother Ted will long be remembered by his lighthearted and witty disposition, and the time he spent with his children.

Sister Evy will long be remembered by her sweet and loving disposition, and the way she was always so willing to do for others.

The family wishes to express thanks and appreciation to all for the many prayers, cards, and all the thoughtfulness extended to all of us during this time of bereavement.

We each feel it a great privilege to have had them as our parents.

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS

Miss them? Yes, we miss them sadly,
But we know that you knew best,
When you called our Dear Ones from us,
Took them Home with you to rest.

Want them? Yes, we cannot help it,
Though we know it is in vain.
Still we listen for their footsteps,
Long to see them once again.

Need them? Yes, this life seems empty,
For we need their loving care.
But we trust Your hand will guide us,
Help us now this grief to bear.

Have them back? Oh yes, we'd like to,
But thy wisdom's greater still;
So we'd have you keep them for us
Till we meet, as is thy will.

- Selected
The Snyder Family

NEWS ITEMS

NOTE OF THANKS

To the many Christian friends, who remembered us with cards, gifts and other expressions of love on our recent anniversary. We wish to express a heartfelt thanks.

God bless each of you.

Brother and Sister Barry Burtner



That is a choice friend who conceals our faults from the view of others, and discovers them to our own. - Secker



A true friend is the gift of God, and he only who made hearts can unite them. - South



The loss of a friend is like that of a limb; time may heal the anguish of the wound, but the loss cannot be repaired. - Southey

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1985

December 1 - Joab Brings Victory to David - II Sam. 20:1-26.

1. What was the cause of David's troubles?
2. Was Joab the kind of man we would like to live with?

December 8 - A Famine. The Last of the Giants - II Sam. 21:1-22.

1. What caused the famine here mentioned?
2. What wrong had been done to the Gideonites, and what was requested to make it right?

December 15 - The Lord My Rock and My Fortress - II Sam. 22:1-51.

1. To whom does David give credit for his blessings?
2. Who is our Rock and Foundation today?

December 22 - Birth of Christ - Matt. 1:18-25; 2:1-23.

1. What was different in the birth of Christ?
2. Does the world today believe in the divinity of Christ?

December 29 - David Sins and Calls on the Mercy of God - II Sam. 23:1-39; II Sam. 24:1-25.

1. What was David's sins that he threw himself on the mercy of God?
2. What happened to Israel because of his sin?

YOUNG PEOPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1985

December 1 - True Treasurers - Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:15-37.

1. Are earthly treasurers wrong? and what can happen to them?
2. Where should our investments be made? and how are they protected?

December 8 - Fruit Bearing - John 15:1-8; Psalms 1:3; Gal. 5:22-26.

1. Where are we in the vine? and what is expected of us?
2. How may we become fruitful? and how much is expected of us?

December 15 - The Good Shepherd - John 10:1-16.

1. Who is the door to the sheep fold?
2. Will the sheep follow a false shepherd?

December 22 - Birth of Christ - Luke 2:1-20.

1. Why was there no room for Jesus?
2. Is there room in the hearts of people for Him today?

December 29 - Memories - I Cor. 15:1-11; Neh. 4:14; Psalms 63; Ecc. 12:1; II Thess. 2:15.

1. Are memories important? and why are they important?
2. Can memories be pleasant? and can they be painful?

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

DECEMBER 1, 1985

NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WITHIN THE FOLD

Faithful Shepherd, feed me,
In the pastures green;
Faithful Shepherd, lead me
Where thy steps are seen.

Hold me fast, and guide me
In the narrow way;
So, with thee beside me,
I shall never stray.

Hallow ev'ry pleasure,
Ev'ry gift and pain;
Be thyself my treasure,
Tho' none else I gain.

Day by day prepare me,
As thou seest best;
Then let angels bear me
To thy promised rest.

- T. B. Pollock

FALSE SHEPHERDS

We are often reminded of the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks that fateful night when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. If they had not been faithfully caring for those sheep they would have missed the Angelic chorus and the trip to the stable. But these men were faithful. They were where they were supposed to be.

Not all shepherds fulfill the qualifications given by David and Jesus and other Biblical writers. There are many references to shepherds in the Bible. The most notable are the Twenty-Third Psalm and Jesus' discourse on the Good Shepherd. Many references mention the honorable if lowly work of the men who cared for their sheep. Some passages have a Spiritual application beyond the immediate portrayal of the rough but yet tender work of the shepherd.

There are some Biblical references to those who were not good shepherds. Some were false shepherds. They did not care properly for their sheep nor were they concerned about the Heavenly Shepherd.

Jeremiah speaks of these false shepherds. Judah was on the verge of punishment for their continual sin. Most of the blame was laid on their leaders who had misled them. Instead of leading them upward towards God, they had led them toward captivity, death and destruction. They paid dearly because they followed men who were not good shepherds and did not care for the sheep.

These shepherds did not lead their sheep to pleasant pastures, instead they led them through difficult and dangerous mountain passes. They went from mountain to hill instead of seeking the meadows where the sheep could graze. The welfare of the sheep was neglected as they moved continually rather than staying put

THE BIBLE MONITOR

DECEMBER 1, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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where they could be fed the lush, green pastures where the grass was good. Instead the sheep had only weeds to eat. At best these weeds provided no nutrition, at worst they were deadly, poisonous weeds. These shepherds were not aware of the sheeps' need for still waters to drink from. Quiet pools of water were the sheeps' desire. They could not easily drink from the roaring, deep streams that flowed in the wild mountains. If the sheep tried to drink from such streams they could be swept away. The sheeps' natural timidity might cause them to die of thirst rather than attempt to drink from a raging stream.

These shepherds were not always dependable in protecting and securing the sheep. They were not careful about making sure the walls of the fold were kept in good repair. No matter how strong the door was nor how awake the porter was, if the walls were not secure there would be no protection for the sheep. The walls represented boundaries that kept the sheep in the place of safety and kept the thieves and robbers out. Out in the fields the wolves lurked seeking to draw away and devour the sheep, especially tender lambs. If the shepherd was more interested in his own safety and comfort than the sheeps', it was easy for the ferocious wolves to gain the victory they desired. The good shepherd was willing to give his life for his sheep. He not only would be willing to die battling for his sheep but he would give himself to serve their needs.

We find that these characteristics of the natural shepherd also apply to the spiritual shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and all the sheep belong to Him. He has appointed undershepherds to serve the sheep as He would. Of course, His desire is that they would serve as good shepherds.

The sheep face enough dangers without being thrown into needless danger by an unwise shepherd. Many are placed in spiritual danger by unwise and lazy shepherds. They are led through mountains of social gospelism, materialism and spiritual disobedience. No clear path is marked out by the leader so the sheep wander whither they wish. They are led into deep waters of controversy and activism that soon wash them away and drown them. The walls of the fold, the Church, are allowed to crumble so there are no definite boundaries to either keep the sheep in or the wolves and thieves out. These shepherds may generate a lot of activity for the sheep but it is not productive nor uplifting. It creates motion not results. These shepherds do not know where they are going so they can lead the sheep the right way, so they resort to trying to drive them. The sheep can not hear the voice of the Good Shepherd because of the confused noise coming from these unfaithful undershepherds.

Shepherds must be willing to spend and be spent for their flocks. They must be careful to reflect the words and instructions of the Good Shepherd. They must be so in tune with Him that the sheep by hearing and obeying their voices will be hearing and obeying the Good Shepherd.

CHRIST MUST BE LORD!

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or WHATSOEVER ye do, do ALL to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31

"And WHATSOEVER ye do in word or deed, do ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Col. 3:17

"And WHATSOEVER ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto me." Col. 3:23.

"WHATSOEVER ALL", "WHATSOEVER ALL", "WHATSOEVER," God by the unction of the Holy Spirit is trying to make a point! Christ must be Lord of your life. Not just Saviour, but also lord. When Christ saved you, it was not just to bring you out of sin, but it was so He could become Lord of your life! Lord? Ruler, leader, total control, He must become ALL in ALL! Everything we do must become all in all! Everything we do must be at the order of God. Christ our example said:

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me." John 6:38.

"... And that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." John 8:28b

We sometimes think that we are doing God's will by our Christian life, we dress right, we don't cheat on our wives, we are honest, we don't swear, we don't drink, we don't smoke, we are baptized, we take our families to church, we attend lovefeast and much more. Is this wrong? God forbid!! But why are you doing it? Is it to impress your neighbors, or your family, or maybe the people in the church? Is it tradition? Look what a wonderful Christian brother he is! Why do you want your children to turn out good? To avoid humiliation and criticism? I hope that is not your motives! Do you study the Word so others will look up to you? If so then it is in vain! When we think we are doing the most for God, when we think we have it all; that is when we are totally immersed in our own pride. So that doesn't fit you? You are humble. All of us take a cop out and say, "I can't do anything," or "I am so sinful," or "I am a poor weak servant." Now, how can that be if God is really Lord of your life. When we really stop and think about it, the afore-

mentioned humble attitude is how we are supposed to act. We think so, so that makes us Holy. Again we see pride through it all. Feel trapped? That is how we always feel when we attempt to serve God in our own strength! The answer? Quit doing all the things we know to be right? No, oh my No, but examine your motives! Is it for Christ alone, regardless of what anyone, I mean anyone, anywhere will say? Have you personally sat down and searched the Word to see what God wants you to do? Have you spent time on your knees before God, in private, seeking His will for your life. Do you know Jesus, I mean really know Him? Let me illustrate how this works; our good ideas versus God's will for us. The Apostle Paul decided he would go to Bithynia. Do you think that there were no lost souls in Bithynia? Do you think they did not need the gospel of Jesus Christ? Of course they did! It was a good idea based on a good motive! But it wasn't God's will. Paul was submitted, working for Jesus in the will of Jesus. He went to Macedonia as the Spirit called. Moses is another example. In his own effort to do God's calling in his life he killed one Egyptian and delivered one Israelite. But forty years later after he had gotten over his "ME-ness", he delivered three million Israelites, killed the entire Egyptian army, and spoiled the land. All by the order of, and the power of God working through him. He is said to have been the meekest, or most humble, man in the Bible, I guess, aside from Christ! Yet, we find him talking face to face and contending with God. He said, "Don't destroy the people or the Egyptians will say You brought them out here to destroy them." And God heard! But, Moses didn't do it for his own glory or betterment. We must say with John the Baptist, "I must decrease, but He must increase." Only when we are nothing and He is everything can we truly be all He wants us to be! Only then can we fully, not partially as now, have and use the power of God in our Christian walk! Why? Because then it will glorify God and God alone!

"... Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Rev. 5:12.

Why are we part of the Laodicean age? Why are we neither cold nor hot? We are cold because we do all the good things that Christians are supposed to do. But, we aren't hot because we don't see the power of God working through us.

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with other tongues, they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Mark 16:17-18

We are not riding rough shod over satan's territory as the Apostle Paul did! Why? Because we are not hot! Oh, God, help us to see.

What are your goals in life? Happiness? Joy? No wants? Christ said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." He was speaking of material needs. But whoa! If you seek Him so He will give you all these things, then you are not seeking Him, but only yourself! Today, on your knees, seek God and examine your motives. Ask God to reveal yourself to you and then ask Him to deliver you from yourself! Oh, my God, help us all to escape the world. This is the world's attitude, that we are not to be part of — "ME-ism."

Brother Paul H. Mellott
R. 5 Box 172D
Oakland, MD 21550

JESUS AND ALEXANDER

Charles Ross Weede

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
One lived and died for self, One died for you and me.
The Greek died on a throne, the Jew died on a cross
One's life a triumph seemed, the other but loss.
One led vast armies forth, the other walked alone.
One shed a whole world's blood, the other gave His own.
One won the world in life, and lost it all in death.
The other gave up life to win a whole world's faith.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three.
One died in Babylon and one on Calvary.
One gained all for himself, One Himself he gave.
One conquered every throne, the other every grave.
The one made himself god, the God made Himself less,
The one lived but to blast, the other but to bless.
When died the Greek, forever fell his throne of swords
But Jesus died to live forever Lord of Lords.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three.
The Greek made all men slaves, the Jew made all men free.
One built a throne on blood, the other built on love
One was born of earth, the other from above.
One gained all the earth, to lose all earth and heaven,
The other gave up all, that all to Him be given.
The Greek forever died, the Jew forever lives.
He loses all who gets, and wins all things who gives.

- Selected

BE CAREFUL

Be careful what you say -
Be careful what you do -
Be sure to do God's Will
For He is watching you.
If you do not do right
It will go against you
In your "Book of Life" -
All you say — all you do.

But if you want a Home
In glory with your Lord,
To live in a mansion, -
You must live by His Word...
Keeping His commandments
Points to Eternity...
For only you can choose
Your final destiny.

Churches have traditions,
Some, - God didn't lay down...
If they conflict with grace -
Then you won't gain a crown.
Obey the Bible first,
Live a sanctified life -
For this is what it takes,
Devote your life to Christ.

You will have some trials,
Maybe persecutions,
These are to test your faith, -
So never, your Lord, shun!
This is a serious life,
But it's filled with God's love,
His blessings are sent down
To all, from Heaven above.

Give Him your thanks and praise,
Use your pray'r-line to Heav'n,
All things work together
For good — like a leaven.
Run your race with patience
And God will strengthen you
To face what comes your way
- So - be careful what you do.

- Sister Irene Stout

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Giving"

The New Testament places a great deal of emphasis on the subject of giving. There are commands, practical suggestions, examples and exhortations concerning this important part of the Christian experience. Everywhere in the Word, miserliness, greed, and avarice are denounced while generosity, hospitality and charity are extolled. The same word used for our fellowship with the Lord is also used in relation to the fellowship of giving of money. II Cor. 8:4 emphasizes the high spiritual gift available for all believers to have and to use. It is not determined by your financial status and should be one of the high order among your Christian responsibilities.

What is your guide to giving? I Cor. 16:2 sets forth most succinctly the basic principle. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." From this verse we learn four distinct principles:

(1) Giving is necessary for each of us ("let every one of you..."). Giving is not, then, an option. It is a PRIVILEGE and responsibility of each believer. When you fail to give, the entire Church is weakened because the church is no stronger than its weakest member. Yes, it is an individual matter in which you determine your responsibility by prayer (not by tithing), but it must be done by understanding that God sees your motive and attitude as you stand naked and open before Him.

(2) Giving is to be proportionate ("as God hath prospered him.") Under the Old Testament regulations, a tenth was required to be given to the Levites. (Lev. 27:30-33) They in turn tithed what they received and gave it to the priests. An additional tenth of the remaining nine-tenths was to be set apart and consumed in a sacred meal in Jerusalem. Additionally, every third year another tithe was taken for the Levites, strangers, fatherless and widows. Thus the proportion was clearly specified and every Israelite was obligated to bring the Lord about twenty-two percent of his yearly income. Your proportion might vary from year to year but your giving must reflect God's blessings by material means and must be given back to Him.

(3) Giving is also to be a private deposit. ("lay by him in store"). Giving in a public way destroys the blessing of giving. One of the signs of our day is to desire "credit" when something is done for a charitable cause. We want to have our names on a list, our

plaque on a door or a pew, our giving to be remembered by generations to follow. This kind of giving is not Spirit directed but selfish and sensual.

(4) Finally, giving should be planned. ("on the first day of the week."). It is not to be an erratic thing. It would appear that the Lord's Day is God's appointed day to keep accounts, determine proportions and to lay by in store. This is one of the few things that is clearly laid out for that day, along with assembling with other believers. (Heb. 10:25) Of course, we can become ritualistic about it and that is not necessary either. The idea of combining prayer and giving and worshipping together on a certain day is very strengthening. This must surely be the reason God has instructed us to do it in this way.

Many modern Christians today say we should tithe. The word TITHE is listed in the New Testament eight times. It is always used in connection with what the Pharisees were doing in fulfilling their obligation to the Mosaic law. Actually, in Hebrews, it is used to prove the inferiority of the tribe of Levi, to whom the tithe was given. There is no passage of Scripture that enjoins, either by direct or indirect means, the tithe upon the believer in this dispensation. It is apparent that the tithe was part of the Mosaic law and an important factor in the economy of Israel. The Malachi 3 scripture is addressed to those who are the sons of Jacob and that would not fit the believer of our day. Material abundance is never promised today as a reward for faithfulness in giving as many would teach. God promises to meet all of our spiritual and material needs and being prospered materially is not a sign of deep godliness or faithful living, just as poverty is no indication of being out of God's will.

If there were no new guides for giving placed in the New Testament we would need to follow the standards of the Old Testament. To tithe on the basis of those who did it before the law would mean that only ten percent would go to the Lord. To tithe on the basis of the law would mean twenty-two percent would be given to the Lord as payment of a debt due Him. To give on New Testament standards might mean any percent given, because a hundred percent already belongs to Him. The Lord's work will never lack support if we practice and preach the New Testament principle of Giving.

Ultimately, then, the question is not "How much do I give?" but "How much do I spend on myself?" We must give because He gave, not because He commanded; we give because we want to, not because we have to. If in turn He blesses us materially, we praise Him, if not, we STILL praise Him. This is Christ's way of giving.

Brother Leonard Wertz

ANYBODY CAN RUN

Book of Jonah

Anybody can run — but it takes a real man or woman to face up to life, to accept responsibilities, to admit when wrong has been done. Anybody can run, like Jonah did, from God and from his assigned work, but also like Jonah, the running only compounds the problems. It isn't easy to stand firm and face what comes our way, but avoiding or running from life and its responsibilities is never successful.

Whenever we refuse to face an issue, we are running from it. When we refuse to take care of responsibilities, we are running from them. When we try to avoid doing God's will as Jonah did, we are running from God. This running only makes bad matters worse, and if we're running from God, He's going to deal with us accordingly. God kept His hand on Jonah, and dealt with him in a way so he definitely got the message. Not only did Jonah recognize his mistake, but he was willing to make it right.

Anybody can run, anybody can slide by or push responsibility off onto someone else, but it takes a mature person to stay and face it. A mature person will give a little extra to make things better. He or she will find a way to cope with responsibility, not try to avoid it. This is never easy, but neither is it easy to run, to try to hide like Jonah did.

Jonah was given an assignment by God, and he promptly got up and ran. Nineveh was one direction — Jonah went the other. It was a costly trip for him. The first expense was the boat fare, but that was only the beginning. Then God brought a storm on the sea which Jonah was blamed for. God revealed Jonah's guilt to the mariners and he had to confess his wrong. He soon lost his freedom, as the great fish swallowed him. Add all this to the price Jonah paid.

Jonah told the mariners, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven." Jonah 1:9. He should also have said, "I'm afraid to go to Nineveh." Before you get too haughty, remember that you've probably acted just like him. You say, "I'm a Christian, and I fear God", but turn and run from what He wants you to do. Anybody can run, but only God's mature children can do what's right.

Jonah's running did accomplish something. It made the mariners a lot wiser. When they saw how God dealt with Jonah, "the men feared the Lord exceedingly." (see Jonah 1:16) They also sacrificed and made vows, acting on their new knowledge and awareness of God. I believe Jonah ended up a lot wiser also, but God was not finished with him yet. In fact, his lessons were just beginning.

Jonah was afraid, but couldn't find a place of safety. He had tried

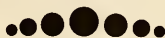
to keep going, but he couldn't run fast enough (see Jonah 2). Being in the fish wasn't so great either. Jonah called it the belly of hell. He was shut away from life, he was in the dark, and it was so bad that Jonah's soul fainted within him. Then he remembered the Lord. Picture yourself in his situation. You'd likely remember God too! And, you'd certainly be hoping for a way out of such a mess.

God gave Jonah a second chance and the fish vomited him up. Then the previous assignment came again. Jonah went this time, but he still had a problem about entirely accepting God's will. When Nineveh repented, and God had mercy on this huge city, Jonah didn't like it. He wasn't quite a mature man yet. God had had pity on Jonah, but Jonah didn't have any on Nineveh. God then brought another lesson to him to teach him to have compassion.

"And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them. I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Luke 14:18-20. All of these people made excuses to avoid doing what they knew they should, and were no better than Jonah. We can't justify ourselves with a bunch of excuses either.

"So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12. Jonah ran off, but he still had to give an account and make his wrong right. "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." I Cor. 4:2. God gives us certain responsibilities and He expects us to take care of them faithfully. Anybody can run away from such responsibility, but it takes a mature Christian to faithfully do God's bidding. Jonah finally said, "I will pay that that I have vowed." (Jonah 2:9) Will you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater



Gambling is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity, and the father of mischief. - Washington



All gaming, since it implies a desire to profit at the expense of others, involves a breach of the tenth commandment. - Whately

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1925

LOVE FEAST

S. M. West

I am not a minister, but as a follower of Jesus I am a preacher, and some how I feel now like preaching a little on this subject, and would take as a text the 13th of John from 1st to 31st verses.

Now John was one of Jesus' chosen apostles, should I say the favorite? Well, he was the only one of the twelve of whom such as this was said in 23rd verse, "whom Jesus loved," and in other places the beloved disciple, now why just these sayings, unless, he, being a particular man would be so particular as to record the three ordinances constituting the Love feast in such a particular way for his followers to observe, as would be most for the glory of the God he represented?

If Jesus thought it so important this time, when he knew as he did, what was before him, and that his time had come when he should depart and go to the Father, and wishing as he seemed to, in parting with his own apostles, and after followers, to leave some lasting instructions to them, as to institute these three plain ordinances, giving as he did in love, he commands and as he said in verse 15, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

This one loved disciple was so careful to record it so exactly as to even quote the different ones. And Jesus answers by telling them plainly who should betray him, telling that one, "what thou doest do quickly", of his going immediately out as Judas did.

Then after his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, and sojourn forty days upon earth, and meeting and being known by his disciples, leading them out as far as Bethany and in Matthew 28:20 giving his last command, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world", must have been of great importance to mankind or he would not have taken the time to do as he did.

What right then has any man or church of any denomination to set aside two of these Christ instituted ordinances and using but one, thereby making of little or no effect, and taking but little time for thought upon so great and important an event?

And now after reading God's word as it ought to be read, finding out about God's unbounding love for us, as we will, if we do so, learning as we will what he has done for us sinners as we all were,

in sending his only Son to earth to live with and teach mankind how to live right, setting examples for us to follow and instituting as he did, what ought to be a pleasure for us to follow, if we are thoroughly converted from our sins, and truly believe in him, it seems to me as those love feast season spoken of in scripture by such as Jude 1:12, "These are spots in your feasts of charity," are intended for our Spiritual good.

Jude is here speaking of false ones who, some how, Satan has succeeded in crowding into the real feast of the true disciples. In Acts 2:42, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." The 46th reads very similar. And in I Cor. 11 from 20 to 30 Paul gives strict instructions upon this subject as though of much importance.

It seems to be very certain from reading different writings in scripture, and way back from the church fathers' writings, that for at least three hundred years after Christ's ministry on earth, much importance was attached to the holding of what was properly called Love feasts.

It also seems Satan hating it has succeeded in bringing in what has almost done away with it, sad as it is. It does seem to me as if getting down in humility and love before each other and washing each other's feet, then in friendship for and love towards each other, eating a plain supper together, while a leader at such an occasion was reading and commenting upon portions of God's word, immediately bearing on this greatest event that ever took place, would befit, in the best possible way, the true followers of God's Son, slain for sin, to partake of the emblems of his broken body and shed blood, broken and shed because of sin.

And this question arises right here: Why will Christ's true followers ever set aside such an important (and should be sacred to every true believer) event, as this is, showing forth his death till he comes again?

And now let us hope and pray and work with and by, the Holy Spirit's directions, to the bringing back of God's ways, and striving to the bringing of this world to where God the Father, Christ the Son, who died for it, and the Holy Spirit has so long been planning, working and striving to bring it to, namely, a paradise of God, for man to dwell in with him.



You may depend upon it, religion is, in its essence, the most gentlemanly thing in the world. It will, alone, gentilize, if unmixed with cant; and I know nothing else, which alone, will. — Coleridge

THE FAMILY ALTAR

Lord at our altar here we meet,
To worship thee this brand new day.
We seek direction for faltering feet,
And blessing on our unknown way.

We thank thee for protection, Lord,
It's safe within Thy sheltering arm,
Though future clouds our skies afford,
We lie secure from every harm.

If life today be full of strain,
May we each task as it arise,
Find needed strength and peace obtain,
To gain some worthwhile enterprise.

Help us to be a neighbor true.
To others' needs aware to be
Unselfish, kind, sympathetic, too.
By helping them we're helping thee.

Forgive each idle word we say,
Each careless deed, each vanity,
We trust thy love to wash away,
Each blot upon life's book today.

And when life's race on earth is run,
Our earthly cares and sorrows past,
May each, without the loss of one,
Be found with God at home at last.

- Sister Maxine Surbey

EXAMPLE OR SUBSTITUTE

After a service in Germantown, Pennsylvania, a stranger accosted the late D. M. Stearns: "I don't like your preaching. I do not care for the cross. I think that instead of preaching the death of Christ, it would be far better to preach Jesus, the Teacher and Example."

"Would you then be willing to follow Him if I preach Christ, the Example?" replied Mr. Stearns.

"I would, I will follow in His steps."

"Then," said Mr. Stearns, "Let us take the first step, 'Who did no sin.' can you take this step?"

The stranger looked confused. "No," he said, "I do sin, and I acknowledge it."

"Well, then," said Mr. Stearns, "Your first need of Christ is not as an Example, but as a Saviour."

And this is every man's need.

Selected by L. H. Miller

MARRIAGE

ANDREWS - KASZA

Bro. Russell David Kasza, son of Bro. and Sis. Eugene Kasza, Malta Bend, Missouri and Sis. Laura Lynne Andrews, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Larry Andrews, Raymore, Missouri were united in marriage October 26, 1985 by Elder Ray Reed at the First Baptist Church, Raymore, Missouri.

The couple will make their home at R. 1 Box 21, Alma, Missouri 64001.

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We, the Shrewsbury Congregation, were blessed at another Lovefeast experience and all day service November 3. Although two of our members were in the hospital, and some were ill at home, we were happy to have four of our members to commune for the first time. We were happy to have those from Ohio, Kansas and California as well as our other visitors. Our appreciation also for our visiting ministers who brought the Word throughout the day: Virgil Leatherman, Emmert Shelly, James Kegerreis, Allen Eberly, and Hayes Reed who officiated in the evening.

Our Revival Meetings in August, with Bro. Henry Walker as our evangelist, were well attended. Many challenging messages were given. We were happy Bro. and Sis. Walker could be with us for the two weeks. May the Lord bless them in the Lord's service. After the meetings there were two who were rebaptized. Before the revival meetings there were two baptized and two received on their former baptism. May we pray for each other, that we keep in the Lord's Will.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

THANK YOU

Thanks for making my birthday a more pleasant day. I wish to express my THANKS to each one who sent me birthday cards, gifts, and most of all the prayers of dear Christian friends. The prayers of all the righteous availeth much.

My life must touch a million lives in some way ere I go
From this dear world of struggle to the Land I do not know.
So this I always wish, The prayer I ever pray;
Let my life help the lives it touches by the way!

If the Apostle Paul was so dependent on the prayers of God's saints to give his ministry success, how much greater the necessity that the prayers of God's saints be centered on the ministry of today.

God bless our Elders and Ministers who have charge of leading both Saints and sinners in the right way to our Eternal Home.

Sister Virgie Rio

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIII

DECEMBER 15, 1985

NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD'S PLAN

God gave the Plan of Salvation
Through Jesus, His only Son,
Who He sent as a Babe to earth
To see that His work was done.

Jesus set the examples, and told us
We need faith to believe in Him,
We should always do His commands,
And repent from all our sin.

Then when His work was ended,
He told, a Comforter He'd send
To open our understanding —
And give guidance unto men.

He is our Great Mediator -
Between His Father and man,
With the Holy Spirit to lead us
We live in God's Holy Plan.

- Sister Irene Stout

CHRISTMAS

Christmas! There is so much to be said about the way Christmas is celebrated. It does not take great Spiritual insight to understand that the usual way of observing Christmas is not pleasing to God nor honoring the real Christ of Christmas.

Today's Christmas has become a commercial enterprise. Retailers expect to do about one third of their yearly business in the few weeks preceeding Christmas. Advertising and promotions begin early in the Fall to draw customers who will buy merchandise to be used as presents. The great gift-giving flurry of the season is more often not the giving of gifts but an exchange. Often the gifts are little used or appreciated but given and received as a part of the season's activities.

This celebration, even in Christian circles, often takes on a worldly character. Santa Claus, the invention of white lies and devilish schemes, is often invited right into churches. Santa Claus has become a more important symbol of Christmas than Jesus. The commercial side of Christmas is tied to Santa Claus. But even religious observances are topped by an appearance of St. Nick.

In the schools where God's creation of the world is ridiculed as unreasonable and mythical, Santa Claus is promoted. Children are taught to put their trust in this legendary figure rather than in parents and God. When presents are supposedly from Santa Claus, the parents are left as unneeded bystanders who do not provide the child's dreamed-for toys. The provision of Santa's gifts is often caught up in pride and status.

When all is said and done where is there any command to commemorate the birth of Jesus? It is most improbable that the birth of Jesus occurred in December. Legend and myth have ruled

THE BIBLE MONITOR

DECEMBER 15, 1985

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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in setting apart this time. There are so many things that have become a part of this current, worldly, ungodly, sensual form of Christmas celebration.

Christmas! There are so many bad things that have become associated with it. Christians are made to wonder if they should have anything at all to do with the season. While there are many disappointing and God-dishonoring practices surrounding the observance of Christmas, still there are some good things about the season. While the Christian can not participate in many of the activities that have grown up around the mythical customs of Christmas, still there are some good things.

Christmas is a time of giving. Even though the motives may at times be ulterior, there is giving to help the needy. While such giving could be done all year around, still what is given at this time of the year is that much that perhaps would not be given at all otherwise. The poor and needy are always with us we should do them good whenever we can. Often we are not individually able to do much without an organized effort and most of that effort is slanted toward the Christmas season. So as we have this opportunity we should use and not refuse, just because it does not go on all the year.

Christmas is a good time for families to get together. With the fragmentation of families today any occasion that will bring them together for a little bit should be used. Today families are split apart by long distances. They no longer live in the same neighborhood generation after generation. They are spread across the country or even farther. There are divisions in beliefs and practices. When coming together for a few days, even if they do not agree with each other, they can at least be together and often that togetherness will help heal old hurts.

There is an air of helpfulness among all classes of people at this season. While this attitude should prevail all through the year it usually doesn't. Around Christmas there is a friendlier and happier attitude among people. Anything that makes people want to get along and help others should be seen as a good part of the season.

The best thing about the season is, though overlooked and clouded by unhold customs and myths, the Babe born in Bethlehem. There is enough said and sung that at least a little about the Saviour may be heard by a world looking for something better than Santa Claus, or Christmas trees or too-expensive gifts or drunken feasts. The Christian certainly can appreciate that without the Virgin birth there could have been no substitutionary death or marvelous resurrection some thirty-three years later. The true Christmas story is more than a sentimental tale it is the story of God's love reaching

down to fallen man on his level.

The Christian can not and must not engage in the frivolous, devilish, dishonest and worldly customs of the popular celebration of Christmas. But he can enjoy the opportunities to share the Jesus of Christmas through kindness, giving, family togetherness and love. In this way stripped of the worldly and ungodly customs encumbered upon Christmas, Christmas may be to the Christian truly a Merry Christmas.

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING?

'Twas the day before Christmas
And all over the place,
Folks were shopping and feasting
And emptying their plates

Few thought of Jesus,
Our wonderful Lord,
As they rushed through the stores
Collecting their horde.

The merchants were tickled
As cash registers jingle,
St. Nicholas' "Ho, Ho,"
Makes youngsters' ears tingle.

But what about Jesus,
The Savior of men?
He's lost in this mess —
We forgot Him again!

We spend all our time
At cantatas and plays,
Or gather at parties
And stagger home in a daze.

We prefer the glitter of trees
And candles that glow,
To true worship of Jesus
Who still loves us so.

Now, let us repent
Of this pageant and stuff,
It's time to consider —
Enough is enough.

It's time to return to
The Savior of men,
Then Christmas will once more
Be joyful again.

Brother Paul Hartz

NO SAVIOR BUT JESUS

Every year at some time or in some way, we remember the birth of Jesus. For some people time is spent the last few weeks of the year in celebration supposedly to remember His birth but mostly in social celebration. Others remember Jesus all year long not in some formal celebration, but in everyday living. He is their inspiration and motivation, their reason for living. Whatever remembering they do at the close of the year is because He is precious to them the entire year.

What is this all about? Why remember Jesus and His birth anytime? Because He is our only Savior. If it were not for Him, we'd have no salvation, no intercessor, no one to really make life meaningful. Jesus wanted to give all He had to give to save us, and in order to do so, He had to come to this earth as a Babe. Jesus took on the human form so He could later give His life for all mankind. We need to remember how and why He came, then go on in serving Him.

Many prophecies about Jesus' birth and the purpose for which He came are in the Old Testament. "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Savior." Isa. 43:11. "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isa. 43:25. These are just two of the verses which tell us specifically that the only salvation is in Jesus, and we need to remember this.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, His purpose in coming was pointed out right along with the event. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. The promised Messiah, the Anointed One, our Redeemer and Lord, had come. Is this not cause for celebration, for a time of joy in knowing God had come to be with us? You may not appreciate how some celebrate, but don't let that keep you from having true joy in your heart because of our Savior.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Again the purpose of Jesus' coming is pointed out. He didn't come as a babe in Bethlehem just to give us a heart-touching story to remember. He came solely to provide salvation for us, and He did carry out His work completely. Salvation is now available to all who will come to Jesus for it.

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. Not only did Jesus come to save us, but He intends to seek us, to draw us to Himself. Jesus didn't, and still doesn't, wait for us to come to Him, but sends out the invitation to

come and receive salvation. Salvation is available to all who want it, to all who realize they are lost and in need of a Savior, but Jesus still does the inviting.

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7. At the time of Jesus’ birth, He wasn’t given a nice, warm, comfortable place, for no one made room for Him. Now, it can be the same if you turn away from Him. You have no Savior but Jesus — will you make room in your heart for Him? Or, will you turn Him away?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

HOW TO KILL YOUR PREACHER

Someone has compiled the following list as a sure method to kill preachers —

- Don’t attend the Sunday evening service.
- Don’t attend the prayer meeting.
- Only hear him when “convenient.”
- Habitually come late.
- Sit just inside the door.
- Don’t give him your attention.
- Rush out as soon as the service ends.
- Act cold to show your dignity.
- Never thank him for his message.
- Never appreciate his efforts.
- Tell him what wonderful messages you hear elsewhere.
- Criticize him before your children.
- Don’t make him welcome when he calls.
- Criticize him for not calling.
- Accuse his wife of trying to run things.
- Don’t offer to help.
- Don’t take your Sunday guests to hear him.
- Don’t inform him when you are ill.
- Don’t pray for him.
- Don’t do what he says.

What about going thoughtfully over the list again to see if you are guilty of some of these things?

If you are guilty, the Word says: — “whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Prov. 28:13.

- Selected

SERENITY Luke 2

Quietly sleeping on this day, in a manger filled with hay,
 A new born baby lay.
 Mary's heart was filled with joy as she watched her baby boy,
 Resting there.
 Slowly creeping up the sky, spilling brightness near and far,
 Shone a Star.
 Chasing darkness far away, brilliantly its beams did shine,
 On the night.
 Startled shepherds stirred and gazed... at the sight.
 Humble shepherds, humble birth, yet believing, still,
 In trust they left their flocks of sheep upon the hillside slope,
 Their minds were filled with awe and fear,
 Their hearts with love and hope.
 They hastened to obey the word, the Heavenly Host did bring,
 And journeyed on to Bethlehem, to see the newborn King!
 Mary's Joseph, staunch and true,
 Although awake the whole night through,
 Still her husband by the door... sat alert.
 So no evil would befall, his beloved ones to hurt.
 How he wished that he could bring; riches rare.
 Gifts of gold and silver too, as a home, a palace fair,
 Far away from toil and care.
 "How could it ever be," reasoned he, "That the best that I could find,
 Was this stable small and crude, in a company poor and rude?"
 Hark, was that a song he heard, wafted on the morning air:
 Clearly sounding as a bell, yet so sweet and fair,
 Heart stirring to its very depth, as no other song before?
 Heavenly chorus thrilled his dreams, was it just a vision then,
 That he saw?
 Humble shepherds at the manger, kneeling down in awe,
 "We have heard glad tiding, now, for all kith and kin!
 That a king is born this day to deliver us from sin!"
 Echoes came from hills afar, "Peace on earth, good will to men!"
 Joseph bowed his head in prayer for this lesson he was taught,
 God's Spirit dwells in trusting hearts, filled with humble thoughts.
 God's way is always best, trust in Him and be at rest!

Sister Maxine E. Surbey



It is the will, and not the gift that makes the giver. — Lessing.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1925

THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE

B. E. Kesler

"Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10. Thus was announced the grandest message that ever came from heaven to earth.

It was the fulfillment of many prophecies by men inspired of God to foretell its coming.

Moses had said, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpents head", and "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a law giver from between his feet until Shiloh come", and "a prophet shall the Lord God raise up unto you, from among your brethren, like unto me, him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you."

And Isaiah had said, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Zechariah also looked down the vista of time and said, "Behold my servant whose name is the Branch. He shall grow out of his place and he shall build the temple of the Lord." Isaiah also had seen by prophetic vision, the time when "The lame man shall leap as a hart, the tongue of the dumb shall sing, the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped", but it was left to the angel to announce to the humble shepherds of Judea that the time had come for fulfillment of all those prophets had foreseen, which, said he, is, "Good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all peoples."

"Good tidings" because it met the expectancy of the peoples for the fulfillment of the prophecies in the coming of a Redeemer and Savior. "Great tidings" because it met the expectancy of the peoples for the fulfillment of the prophecies in the coming of a Redeemer and Savior. "Great joy" because, believing the prophecies, they were expecting great blessings to be poured out upon the people — Their maimed, their halt, their blind, their dumb, their deaf, would be made to walk, to see, to hear, to talk, and, as they expected, a great king would set up a great kingdom in royal splendor, and seated upon his throne — the throne of his father David — would reign over the house of Israel forever. But, coming as he did in a manger, of the humblest parentage, their hopes were unrealized and their expectations blasted, and being thus so completely disappointed, they refused to receive him as "good tidings of great joy." Of course they were glad for his healings and helpfulness but rejected him as their king, and still do to this day

But to the many who have received him as their king, Redeemer

and Savior, he is "good tidings of great joy." They rejoice in his redeeming and saving power, and the happy experiences in his service, and the hope of a happier experience in the great hereafter, with all the redeemed and saved who faithfully follow, love and serve him in this present evil world.

Then to, we rejoice because these good tidings and this great joy is for all people. That all may share in his redeeming mercy; that there is no respect of persons with him, but in every nation, he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is acceptable to him.

Bless his holy name for these good tidings of great joy, which are now being experienced by all his faithful children!

IF

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord."

When it is time to go to Church and during the services can others tell that we are glad? "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

If we are glad our lives will show it.

Do we arrive for the service in good time or are we usually late?

Do we sit up front where we expect to get alot out of the service or do we sit in the back?

Do we join in the singing or wish they would hurry and get finished?

Do we listen attentively, or do we whisper and watch what others are doing?

Do we come with our hearts prepared to receive a message, or do we come to see and be seen?

Do we do what the church asks us to do, teach Sunday School and so forth?

Do we sit quietly or do we get up and go out unnecessarily and cause distraction?

Do we eagerly listen while the preacher is preaching or do we watch the clock and hope he does not preach beyond the usual time?

Do we enjoy the fellowship after the service or do we soon go home to avoid meeting others?

Do we reverend the house of God or do we talk loud and laugh out loud alot.

If we are glad then exceptions will not be the rule and we can say that it has been good for us to be here.

Selected by Sister Blanche Eberly

GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON

Howard Surbey

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, than an heir of God through Christ." Gal. 4:4-7.

"When the fulness of time" God's time was come. This heir of salvation had been promised from the very beginning and many, many times since, by many and various prophets. By referring to these prophets the details of Christ's coming are revealed. No doubt many of these prophets and those who depended upon God's promises thought that the time was near. However, when finally the fulness of God's time was come, then immediately He sent forth His Son. No doubt the proper shaping and developing of men was necessary to complete this fulness of time. Why send forth a Redeemer before man was ready to accept One? When man felt self-sufficient would he accept the being redeemed by someone else? However, when man had developed a sense of sin and craved for a holiness which was above him, then he was ready for someone greater to intervene to God for him.

Dear reader, Christ is coming again "when God's fulness of time is come." We are now in a period of preparation of our hearts, that we will unreservedly serve God and keep His commandments. When God's guests are ready, then His heir will come for them. It will not be when you think or when I think, but when God's plans are fully come. It will be just as sudden and just as unexpected by the multitudes as His first coming was, and no doubt only the faithful few will know of it. You say, "Every eye shall see him" yes but this is when He comes in the power and judgment, the second part of His second coming.

God sent forth His Son "made of woman," as one among us that He might be able to guide and direct us. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15. Thus He was able to lead us and show us that we need not yield unto sin. Christ humbly submitted himself unto the Father and came unto the earth as a babe, meekly bowing under the plans of Almighty God. We cannot grasp the humility of the Son of God, appearing on the sinful earth as a poor, weak, dependent baby.

"Made under the law." One who was Ruler and dwelt so kingly

above this lowly earth, submitting Himself unto the law. This refers to the law of man. Truly He submitted Himself unto the old dispensation, the Jewish law and was born as a Jew, subject unto the many rites and ordinances, unto the Tribe of which it was prophesied that He should be born. No doubt the multitudes of Jews considered Him one amongst the Jewish babes, presented unto God in the temple and circumcised under the law. Even His mother had expected to find Him among the other Jewish boys as He grew up, and only the miracles of God opened her understanding. He was subject also to the Roman law, born through hardships almost unbelievable because of the decree of this law, which at this time overruled the scepter of the Jewish law. After His duties were performed, He was sentenced under the Roman law, suffered and died under that law.

Christ suffered all this that He might fulfill the plans of God, that He might deliver man from the ceremonial law. Truly He came to redeem man from the wrath of God, because of man's sin. Jesus was our Saviour from sacrifice of the ceremonial law and the founder of "A new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh." Heb. 10:20. We, as Gentiles, were not born as heirs of God's promises to His people, but have been adopted by Christ as sons and therefore heirs of God. Do we conduct ourselves daily as His sons? Is the Spirit of His Son in our heart? Have we even reached the first stage of this adoption, of humble submission and prayer, crying unto our Father?

We are no more a servant of sin, if we have accepted Christ as our Saviour. Really we are no more a servant of God, but rather a son, an heir with rights comparing unto Christ our Redeemer. Dear reader, do we deserve such a promise? We are largely the ruler of our daily life, our thoughts, our words, our deeds and our efforts from day to day. Do we conduct ourselves as: servants of sin, servants of a Satan ruled world, servants of God or a son and an heir with Christ? "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him that we may be also glorified together." Rom. 8:16-17.

Selected from December 15, 1963 Bible Monitor



Friendship with the evil is like the shadow in the morning, decreasing every hour; but friendship with the good is like the evening shadows, increasing till the sun of life sets. - Herder

AVOIDING THE "GUILT TRIP"

I Cor. 2:13 "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth; compared spiritual things with spiritual."

There are many movements today within the earthly church. Each of these has their own portion of scripture which they claim to be experts on and base most of their teachings on these scriptures. Along with these favorite scriptures (many times used out of context) they have favorite sayings. If you do not agree with their thinking many of them are quick to try to put you on a "guilt trip."

The second chapter of I Timothy touches on several of these types of teaching. We do not have the space to copy the entire second chapter, so we urge you to read it.

The first three verses deal with our relationship with those in government who have authority over us. Next to Romans 13, this is probably the most used portion of scripture to put a "guilt trip" on those individuals who refuse to become involved in politics. But all this portion of scripture instructs us to do is to pray for those in authority. There is no suggestion that a Christian should vote or run for office. In fact we (Christians) are instructed to pray for those in authority so that we (Christians) "may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty." This is in direct contrast to government who "beareth not the sword in vain," according to Romans 13:4. We believe Paul is expressing the same thought he expressed in Romans 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Paul realized that government and the Church would often be in conflict. But we can always have the spirit of peace, even when we have to disobey. We should also remember, however, that we are to disobey only in those areas which the scripture clearly gives guidance on. We feel many churches are using this as an excuse to disobey the law of the land and would put you on a "guilt trip" for not going along with them.

Verse 4 of I Timothy 2 tells us that God would have "all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." This reminds us of those who were saved as a direct result of your testimony to them. In Acts 2:47 we read the words, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." We do not believe this teaches Galvanistic predestination, but we do believe it shows that it is the Lord's work, not ours, to convict and convince individuals of their need of salvation. This does not excuse us from living a life of testimony and speaking the words of life when the Holy Spirit opens the door.

We will skip verses 5 through 7 until later, since we feel they fit

into our last thought quite well. Verse 8 of 1 Timothy 2:1 "I will therefore that men every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting," reminds us of the "guilt trip" put on us by those who teach radical emotion. Some will tell you that if you do not show emotion it is a sign you may not be saved. Others put all the stress of a mature Christian on emotion and the "gifts of the Spirit." But 1 Cor. 12:11 (after naming the gifts of the Spirit) tells us, "But all these worketh the one and the selfsame Spirit, DIVIDING TO EVERY MAN SEVERALLY AS HE WILL." When we tell God what gifts WE want we are going contrary to scripture and exhibiting spiritual pride, as we see it. As far as emotion is concerned, we feel there are two extremes in the earthly church. We do not feel it should be suppressed or "pumped up." The thing that bothers us about the vast majority of those who would put you on a "guilt trip" concerning emotion and spiritual gifts is their complete disregard for the next verse of scripture, verse 9, "In like manner also (meaning this also includes men) that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." Some argue that if this means not to wear jewelry it would also mean not wearing clothing. This is ridiculous! Paul plainly speaks of "modest apparel." If anyone can show us one piece of jewelry that is necessary we will retract our statement. As for wedding rings, there are far more divorces among those who wear them than those who do not because of conviction.

Our last "guilt trip" takes us to the last verses of this chapter. This is the "guilt trip" of being prejudiced if you do not support "women preachers." Verse 12 spells it out. "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man,..." In verse 7 (which we skipped) Paul tells us exactly what he is referring to. He calls himself both a PREACHER and TEACHER. So a woman is NOT to be what Paul describes himself as being. This is not limited to a husband-wife relationship as the Holiness people teach. We understand "to be in silence" to mean to be silent in places of authority.

If we live contrary to scripture then we should experience a "guilt trip." If you have never accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you are guilty before God. The Bible teaches that God calls all men (and women) and wishes to have you spend eternity with Him. To refuse is to spend eternity in Hell with eternal punishment.

James M. Hite
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A WORD FOR A DISMAYED HEART

Karlis Iesalnieks

"Fear thou not; for I (God, Himself) am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10. So says God to a dismayed heart. The true Christian life is not a pleasure trip, but a very grave fight. The hardest and most difficult problem for our human mind, understanding and feeling is that this fight is a "fight of faith". For it is written, "O man of God... fight the good fight of faith." I Tim. 6:12.

Our human nature is so eager first — to see, then to understand, feel and then believe that God is with us and will give us victory. But that is not the way of faith; that is not how we are able to get glorious victory over either our enemies, afflictions, sickness or any other problem in our life. First of all, we must believe that God, who loveth us with everlasting love is with us; He goeth before us; He fighteth against our enemies as the Bible saith, "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee... Let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you." (Read and believe Deuteronomy 20:1-4 and Isaiah 41:10-14.

All that we have to do in "The Battle of Faith" is (1) We have to be all right with God in our heart. (2) We have to obey God as much as we have the Knowledge of the truth, (3) We may not do anything that is against our good conscience. (Read I Tim. 1:18-20) (4) We must believe with our heart (not with head only) just as it is written in the Bible, and then (5) "commit thy way (thy battle) unto the Lord, (wait patiently for Him) trust also in Him, AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS." Jesus said unto her (Martha) "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God." John 11:40.

Selected by Sister Ruth Snyder



SPIRIT'S GENTLENESS

It is curious to remark that wherever the Holy Ghost is spoken of in the Bible, He is spoken of in terms of gentleness and love. We often read of "the wrath of God" the Father, as Rom. 1:18; and we read of the wrath of God the Son, as Psalm 2:12, but we nowhere read of the wrath of God the Holy Ghost. Matt. 3:16 speaks of Him as a dove.

NEWS ITEMS

FEBRUARY 1st ISSUE

Now is the time for all new or changed information for the February 1st issue to be sent to the Editor. Thank you.

IN APPRECIATION

We want to thank Brothers and Sisters, friends and relatives for the lovely 60th Anniversary cards, letters, prayers and gifts we received. At this time we have 105 cards. We are fairly good and at times not. We must all trust in Him above as He knows best. May we ever remember to pray for one another. It is a great blessing and help.

Yours in Christian Love,
Bro. and Sis. George Replogle
23453 C.R. 42, Goshen, IN 46526

THANK YOUR

We would like to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, visits and prayers that were offered while Andrew was in the hospital for a broken leg and while recuperating at home. He is out of the cast and is walking again. We thank God for protecting and healing him. May God bless each one abundantly.

In Christian Love,
Dale, Grace and Andrew Blocher

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Galen Harlacher is 416 West Columbia Dr., Newberg, OR 97132.



DISAPPOINTED DOVE

A boy who had a dove so tame that it would perch upon his shoulder and take food from his hand, one day held out a tempting morsel, but, as the boy was in an illnatured mood, he closed his hand just as the dove was about to eat the food. The bird turned away disappointed. Again the boy held out his hand. The dove came forward timidly, but again the hand was closed. With drooping wings the dove went to the further corner of the room. Once more the hand was extended. This time the bird hesitated. Finally it came forward, slowly, hesitatingly. It was just about to take the food when the hand was again closed. Then the dove spread its wings and flew away. The boy never saw that dove again.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY, 1986

January 5 - The Law - I Timothy 1:1-13.

1. From whom did Paul receive his ministry?
2. What was the purpose of the Law?

January 12 - Grace - I Timothy 1:14-20.

1. In what way did God show His love for lost humanity?
2. What charge did Paul give to Timothy? What type of battle are we fighting?

January 19 - One God and Mediator - I Timothy 2:1-7.

1. Why is prayer so important? And how and when are we to pray?
2. Are we to pray for lost souls and how often should we pray?

January 26 - Authority - I Timothy 2:8-15.

1. Should there be a set time to pray? Should we cease to pray?
2. What part does women have in worship and the work of the Church?

YOUNG PEOPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY, 1986

January 5 - Salvation - Psalms 27:1; 37:34-40; John 3:14-17; Acts 4:10-12.

1. Who does David give credit for salvation? What happens to the wicked?
2. What are the conditions for salvation? What part is Christ in Salvation?

January 12 - Necessities - Matthew 5:19-20; 18:1-4; Luke 13:1-9; John 4:22-24; John 6:47-58.

1. Are keeping the commandments important to Salvation?
2. What lessons can we learn from children? In what way does the Bible say we are to worship God?

January 19 - Truth - Proverbs 12:13-28; Proverbs 23:23; Ephesians 4:20-25.

1. What is truth?
2. Who is the author of lies and what happens to those who lie?

January 26 - Contentment - Proverbs 15:14-19; Luke 3:7-14; Phil. 4:6-19.

1. What does Paul say in I Tim. 6:6 about contentment?
2. What does the Bible say we should seek first in life?



